

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, August 25, 1994

Published Since 1877

According to BWA report...

Plight of women over the globe is worsening

McLEAN, Va. (ABP) — Worldwide, the outlook for women is getting worse, but there are some signs of hope, according to a recent report from the Baptist World Alliance's Women's Department.

Together, a newsletter published by the BWA Women's Department, says women worldwide are suffering more today than in the previous decade.

It cites three trends which are "driving women into despair":

— Economic recession hurts women first and worst.

— Political upheaval, often

resulting in war, turns women into victims.

— Religious trends are oppressing women, particularly in regions dominated by Islam, Hinduism, and other traditional religions.

Half a million women die every year in pregnancy and childbirth, the report says.

Another 200,000 women die every year in botched abortions, the report continues. "This is the leading cause of death for Latin American women ages 15 to 39."

During this decade, the num-

ber of women and children dying of AIDS will increase to 3 million per year, the report says.

"Already in many African cities and in some major cities of America and Western Europe, AIDS is the leading cause of death for young women. The World Health Organization estimates that 10 million children in Africa will be orphaned by AIDS during this decade."

A revival of African traditional religions and Muslim fundamentalism has increased the incidence of female genital mutilation, the report continues. "Current estimates show that more than 100 million women in Africa alone have suffered this crippling blow to their health and status."

Worldwide, women also are far more likely than men to be illiterate, the victims of violence, and live in poverty, the report continues. "According to the International Labor Office, women do two thirds of the world's work and receive 5% of the world's income."

On a happier note, however, the BWA reports that "where Christian women are numerous, the status of women is dramatically higher than in areas without Christian influence."

This is particularly evident in India, the report says, where Christianity is growing faster than the rate of population growth. Women fare better in most respects in the northwestern-most states of India, where Christianity has a significant

influence, than in the southern-most states, which are predominantly Hindu, according to the BWA.

Women are playing a critical role in advancing the gospel around the world, the report says.

The newsletter cites as examples:

— The house church movement in China has grown largely through the ministry of uneducated women evangelists.

— The most successful church planters in the jungles of Myanmar, Burma, are women evangelists supported by the women's organization.

— Of the 50,000 prayer cells in Paul Cho's church in Korea, 47,000 are led by women.

— Baptist women around the world are operating ministry centers in their homes and elsewhere and witnessing one-on-one in places otherwise closed to the gospel.

Daisy Jester, "mother" of thousands, dies at age 90

FALCON, N.C. — Retired Southern Baptist missionary Daisy Jester, 90, affectionately known in Nigeria as "the mother who brings live babies," died Aug. 14 in Falcon, N.C., of complications from a stroke.

Long the matron of the midwifery center at the Baptist hospital in Ogbomosho, she helped bring thousands of healthy babies into the world. A new maternity building opened in 1965, two years before her retirement as a missionary, bears her name.

Appointed with her husband William Jester in 1946 by the Foreign Mission Board, she went to Nigeria after the couple served with another Africa mission organization for 18 years.

Besides the maternity work, she conducted a daily clinic at the Baptist seminary in Ogbomosho,

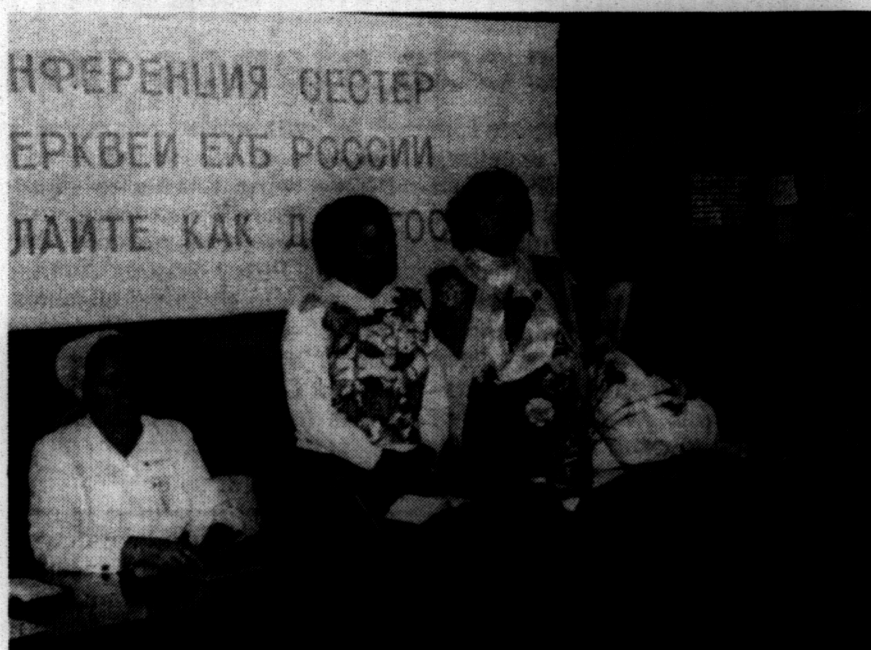
lectured on child and health care, and advised Woman's Missionary Union groups in more than 50 churches.

But "my main objective was to reach the people with the gospel," she said.

The former Daisy Hicks of Morganfield, Ky., she graduated from the Kentucky Baptist Hospital School of Nursing and the Woman's Missionary Union Training School (now merged with Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.).

Her husband died in 1983. She is survived by two grown children.

In lieu of flowers, her family asked that donations in her memory be sent to the Daisy Jester Maternity Center in Ogbomosho, Nigeria, in care of the Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230.



Catherine Allen (right, standing), president of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance, brought greetings to the organizational congress of the Women's Union of the Russian Baptist Union in October 1993. Her translator, standing, was the newly-elected president of the Women's Union, Vera Kadaeva. (EBPS photo by Stanley Crabb)

CLC pushes boycott

The Christian Life Commission (CLC) of the Southern Baptist Convention has decided to join a boycott of European companies responsible for bringing the abortion-inducing drug RU-486 into the United States, after the Clinton administration lifted restrictions on importation. Although RU-486 has been hailed as a simple, non-surgical option for "terminating" pregnancy, critics say abortion is still abortion, and that several injuries and at least one death in Europe have been linked to the drug. "We hold Roussel Uclaf and Hoechst AG, its parent company, responsible for bringing RU-486, the abortion drug, to our shores. The boycott is on," said Wanda Franz, president of the National Right to Life Committee in Washington, DC. The anti-RU-486 coalition includes Focus on the Family, Concerned Women for America, Christian Coalition, and Family Research Council. James A. Smith, CLC director of government relations, said Southern Baptists will be advised of the boycott through publications that will be sent to every church in the convention.

Baptists return to Yemen

Southern Baptists are anxious to get back to their work in Yemen after victorious northern forces drove the last southern rebels from the port city of Aden on July 7, bringing the deadly 65-day civil war to an end. "We're ready to get home to our things and our jobs, and the kids are ready to get back to their toys," said Drew Whitson of Dallas. Whitson, his wife Martha and their four children joined other Southern Baptist workers who fled the country earlier this year when fighting and Scud missiles came too close for comfort. A total of 16 Southern Baptists have waited in Cyprus, a Mediterranean island nation, until order was restored. "We're going to send them back as soon as we can get them in," said Dale Thorne, area director for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Quite a few Southern Baptists were able to stay in areas of the country not affected by the fighting. Most were stationed at the Southern Baptist hospital at Jibla, located in a remote area between the old southern capital city of Sanaa and Aden.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

The first shovels of dirt are turned over at Camp Garaywa in Clinton for the new \$300,000 multipurpose building, which will house at least eight much-needed conference rooms, a large auditorium, and expanded kitchen facilities.

20 years ago

Bryant Cummings, director of the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for the past 16 years, takes over as the first Mississippi president of the Southwestern Baptist Religious Education Association.

50 years ago

Claud Bowen of Jackson is named secretary of the Baptist Radio Committee, which has been directed by the Southern Baptist Convention to engineer a national radio network and design a radio program to be named "The Baptist Hour."

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Marriage in mind

Dozens of papers and magazines will cross an editor's desk every day. One delightful paper I receive is the well-written **Baptist Times** from England. In a recent issue there was advertised a "Marriage Kit" containing six videos presenting the Christian view of marriage. It was designed with the "busy minister in mind."

Most pastors have a pre-marriage counseling course and most will desire several sessions with the couple. All of this plus more is needed. Young couples need to read books, seek specialized counseling, and handle everything with prayer. Presently half of them are headed for the divorce court. Handling finances continues to be one of the leading causes of divorce. Perhaps the worst thing is an attitude of "if it doesn't work there is a way out." Rest assured, it's not likely to work out if that is the pre-nuptial agreement.

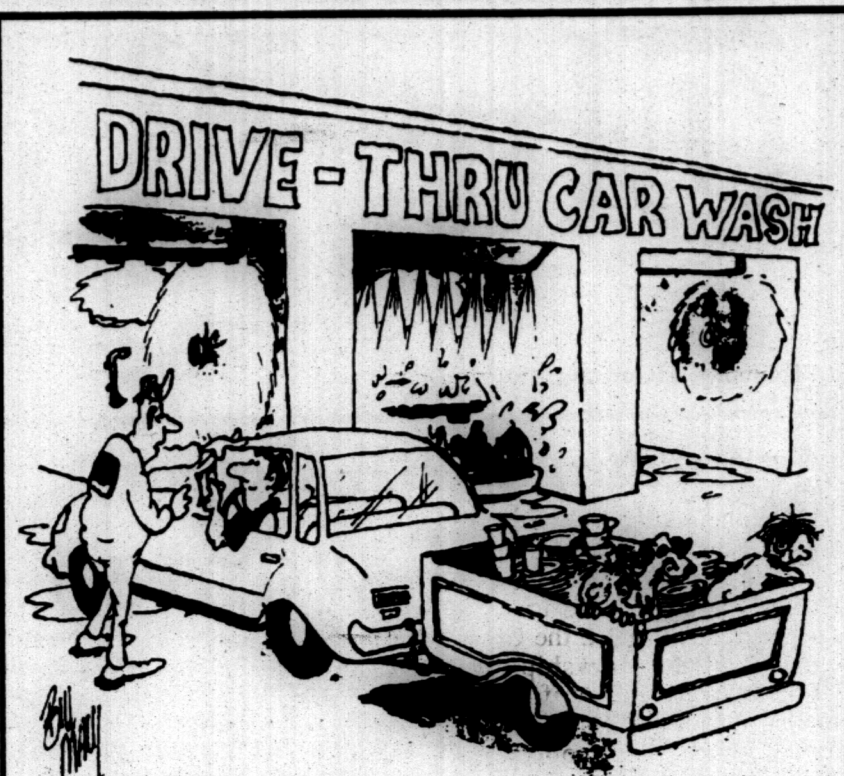
The Brits' version may not be

applicable to American couples but there are many others on the market. If the couple, the moms and dads, and the pastor will work together, the marriage can have a much better chance of lasting. Pastors should read **Marriage Savers** by Michael J. McManus, **The Strength of A Woman** by Linda McGinn, **Fit to be Tied** by Bill and Lynn Hybel, **You're Not My Daddy** by Robert Barnes (where stepchildren are involved), **Equality and Submission in Marriage** by John C. Howell, **Love and Anger in Marriage** by David Mace, and they should recommend these books, plus others, to be studied. The Baptist Book Store and other bookstores are filled with good books on every problem the couple will face. The couple, the parents, the church, and the community are involved in the scope of marriage.

This generation is called the "age that smirks." Holy things

such as marriage, fidelity, and truthfulness are the grist of amusements. Marriage, based only on physical attraction, quickly turns to dissatisfaction. The "flesh" (life without God) desires wealth, power, and status. Add this to the lust of the flesh and "things" quickly turn into objects of worship. Every person shares an allegiance for that which he worships. If we "worship things" or idols, then that life or that marriage falls prey to the fatal attraction of idolatry.

The opposite is to be filled with the Spirit, to walk according to the Spirit (Gal. 5:13), and not according to the lust of the flesh. Such a person desires that which God desires for us and this places a self-control over the flesh. The home is basic to our society and we need to do all we can to strengthen our boys and girls in preparation for the establishing of a new home.



"The wife still visiting her folks, is she, Fred?"

Source: *Marriage Ain't For Wimps* edited by Ron R. Lee. (Zondervan, 1994), available at your local bookstore or by calling 800-727-3480.

Analysis...

Combating the media's influence

By Phil Boatwright

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (BP) — Should we attend movies? The film industry has never been guided by spiritual truths, but the '80s and '90s have evidenced an unrelenting momentum by the media at ridiculing biblical principles, focusing on sex as a cure-all, and promoting bigotry, Christian-bashing, violence, and cynicism.

Whether you attend movies or not, the media have an effect on your life. It's way beyond time Christians stop hoping the problem will solve itself, pretending we are doing our part by not viewing Hollywood's product. No longer can we view TV and attend the cinema with the same attitude we did in the '40s, '50s, and '60s, when you could send your children to the matinee with assurance the subject matter had some sort of taste and temperance. Now, anything goes and the local Bijou has moved into the home via the video cassette.

The two most powerful weapons in the world are the TV and the silver screen because they devastate not the body, but the mind and spirit of man if not used properly.

Each day we read articles about children, teens, or disturbed adults who take a lead from something they've seen on television or at the movies to upset the lives of those around them. In the past year alone we've heard of several

teens killed or seriously injured imitating a scene from the film "The Program."

Four other boys made a flame thrower after watching GI Joe on television. It resulted in one boy being badly burned.

A man influenced by rap music fatally shot a state trooper. Researchers claim beer ads influence not just teens, but children as well.

MTV's "Beavis & Butthead" has been blamed for children setting fires, one of which killed a 21-month-old baby.

There have been several polls and cultural studies that indicate TV and movie viewing coincide with the decline in SAT scores and the increase in everything else: illegitimate births, single mothers, teen suicide, and violent crime.

We can take steps to improve the quality of entertainment, but the first step is to retrain our viewing habits.

I am not suggesting censorship. But it is very obvious the movie industry moguls take no responsibility for what we view. It's up to us. Here are four simple, effective suggestions:

1. Be careful what you support. The bottom line for filmmakers: How much did it gross at the box office? If you are upset with Hollywood's lack of values, why are you supporting it?

2. Be informed. I'll bet you've heard this one: "If you haven't seen the film, how can you object to it?" There are a few resources you can turn to for information, including **The Movie Reporter** (Central Christian Publications, P.O. Box 7178, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359; one-year subscription \$17.95). It gives reviews of the latest releases, as well as the content. Armed with this information, you can decide as well as discuss why we shouldn't support a certain film without having to subject yourself to it.

3. Communicate with the media. Every letter TV execs receive concerning programming is equivalent to hearing from a thousand viewers. Although the TV industry attempts to deny it, your correspondence with the program sponsors is influential.

In reference to the cancelling of "Against the Grain," a family series on NBC, **American Family Association Journal** says, "The producer of the series reported receiving over 130,000 cards and letters of support from AFA members. NBC received a similar number. And while NBC did not respond to the request, it appears that the advertisers and CBS have." The article goes on to say that General Motors, AT&T, Clorox, McDonald's, and Coca Cola have asked CBS to produce a two-hour movie based on the

THE FRAGMENTS

Piney Woods stands firm

The Piney Woods Country Life School has a policy of expelling pregnant students. The Mississippi Department of Education said this is an act of discrimination under the federal sex equity law. Now the private school must forfeit nearly \$2,000 in federal support annually. The 85-year-old school serves disadvantaged black students and was given the option of changing policy or forfeiting the federal funds.

As with most cases, there are two or more sides to this. Even so, I have to tip my hat to Charles Beady, Piney Woods president, for standing up for his policy.

"It's Piney Woods — that's what we are about the business of doing — morals, values and ethics," said Beady. Somewhere in heaven Lawrence Jones, the illustrious founder of the school, will be saying, "Amen."

— GH

series. Most sponsors are eager to please as long as they know the public is watching their commercials.

4. Communicate with your local TV affiliate. If you are upset with profanity (the taking of God's name in vain) on television (which is happening more frequently), call the offending local channel.

Without anger, say, "I'm watching your movie (or program) and they are using profanity. I'm a Christian and it's very offensive to me and my family. Would you please tell your station manager? Thank you." I guarantee, if 100 people in your community do the same, you'll see a change. It's not only important that you call, but get others to do the same.

5. Communicate with your kids. You can't protect them from all of Hollywood's influence. MTV's images and those from the local theater influence your chil-

dren whether they view it or not, because the media's messages affect their friends.

More important than saying "no" to MTV is to say "yes" to biblical teachings. Can you point out better standards than the Ten Commandments or Christ's directive to love one another (John 13:34)? These are concepts that take hold and last through life.

I learned a practical lesson from — of all places — a movie, "Awakenings." In one scene, Robin Williams lectures a group of scientists and educators, emphasizing, "The spirit of man needs to be nourished." We're just like any other living organism on this planet. Everything needs to be nourished; otherwise, it won't grow properly.

Boatwright is editor, **THE MOVIE REPORTER** newsletter and author of the movie guidebook **HOW TO CHOOSE A GOOD VIDEO EVERY TIME**.

The Baptist Record

VOLUME 118 (ISSN-0005-5778) NUMBER 28
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

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Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Send news, communication, and address changes to The Editor, BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 (601) 968-3800.

FMB trustees focus on advance in East Europe, missions vision

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (BP)—Foreign Mission Board trustees focused on plans for a major advance in missions in Eastern Europe, appointed 35 missionaries, and dialogued with board leaders on a future vision for world missions at their Aug. 15-17 meeting.

They also voted to commend the action, first by the Southern Baptist Convention and then by top Foreign Mission Board staff, to decline funds channeled through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Messengers attending the June 14-16 SBC meeting in Orlando, Fla., voted to direct convention agencies and institutions to cease receiving funds through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The CBF is an organization of Southern Baptist churches opposing the convention's current conservative direction.

Top Foreign Mission Board leaders quickly followed that vote with a decision to refuse, effective June 16, about \$1.6 million a year designated for SBC foreign missions through the CBF. They will accept funds given directly to the board or through normal SBC channels such as the Cooperative

Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

The trustees' Europe committee commended mission board staff for an ambitious strategy for Europe and recommended where to get much-needed funding to accomplish a proposed major thrust into Eastern Europe.

The Eastern Europe emphasis will seek to accelerate evangelism, discipleship training, church planting, theological education, and the presence of missionaries and volunteers — all in a region that's unstable politically and economically but wide open to the gospel message.

Trustees approved motions, brought by trustee Paul Pressler, that the board fund Eastern European needs by 1) accepting funds from interested foundations in conversation with FMB leaders, 2) using the first \$5 million received from the Christmas 1995 Lottie Moon Offering over and above the amount to be budgeted for 1996, and 3) using the first \$5 million the board receives over and above the basic national 1994-95 Cooperative Program budget.

Trustees also voted to list Eastern European needs with the

FMB's development office.

FMB President Jerry Rankin presented a challenge for expansion of foreign missions in his charge to 35 new missionaries named at an Aug. 17 service at First Church in Alexandria, Va.

In his report earlier to trustees, Rankin challenged trustees to help

in framing a vision for the future.

He distributed an initial draft of a vision statement and list of core values and asked for trustees' input. He already has sought input from board missionaries and staff. Action on the vision statement and core values will come at a future trustee meeting.

Missionaries appointed bring the total overseas force to 4,027. Among the new missionaries are five singles — two men and three women — who will fill assignments in evangelism among unreached people groups, church planting, agriculture, nursing, and church development.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

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Thursday, August 25, 1994

Published Since 1877

Florida plan will eliminate HMB involvement in state

By Greg Warner

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP) — In yet another demonstration of the independent mood of state Baptist conventions, a Florida Baptist committee voted Aug. 18 to keep most of the money the state convention sends to the Home Mission Board through the Southern Baptist Convention budget.

The proposal, which awaits approval by another committee and the full convention this fall, represents a major change in the way Florida Baptists relate to the Home Mission Board, effectively taking the HMB out of missions work in Florida, one of its most fertile fields.

The Florida convention, the sixth largest in the SBC, sent \$1.9 million to the Home Mission Board in 1993 through the Cooperative Program, the SBC's central budget. In turn, the HMB sent \$1.3 million back to the state to support jointly funded missions personnel and projects.

The Florida proposal, in effect, gives the state convention sole control of home missions work in the state, which traditionally has been done in cooperation with the Home Mission Board.

John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Convention, cited two events that prompted the action — the "unilateral" decision of the HMB to cut funding of state conventions by 6% next year and the recent decision of the HMB trustees to study the agency's relationship to state conventions that handle contributions from the rival Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Greg Martin, pastor of Commission Road Church in Long Beach and HMB trustee, made the motion which led to the study.

"They have no right to investigate us, just as we have no right to investigate them," said Sullivan. The Florida convention allows churches to designate money to the CBF.

Members of the convention's budget and allocations committee, which unanimously approved the proposal, said the HMB funding

cut poses a threat to missions work in the state and violates the cooperative agreement, the document that defines how the HMB and Florida convention relate.

That agreement, which governs Southern Baptist missions work in all states, prohibits "unilateral actions in areas of cooperation" by either the HMB or the state convention. It also encourages state conventions "to assume administrative and financial responsibility for direct mission work now conducted by the HMB as rapidly as possible."

The proposal came from a special budget study committee, which considered several ways to recoup the anticipated 6% cut in HMB funds. Rejected were cuts in Florida personnel, reductions in the Florida budget, and reductions in the amount of money Florida sends to the national Cooperative Program, which would have made all SBC agencies pay for the loss of HMB funding.

Instead, the committee chose to retain the amount of Cooperative Program money that normally would return to Florida via the HMB. Since Florida receives less money than it sends to the HMB, the difference — about \$600,000 — would be sent through the SBC as a designation to the HMB to support missions work in other states.

Likewise, all other Cooperative Program gifts from Florida churches — about \$8.3 million a year — will be sent through the SBC as designated funds for distribution to all other agencies according to standard percentages.

Although that practice would place the Florida convention outside traditional Cooperative Program channels, Sullivan said he is hopeful the SBC will still count the convention's gifts as Cooperative Program funds.

Untouched by the committee's recommendation is the \$2 million Florida Baptists contribute annually to the HMB's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions.

No committee members spoke against the plan. However, member Ferrell Mills of Green Cove Springs said the convention "would have been branded as uncooperative" for the action a few years ago.

Mills said he supports the action but warned it could hurt mission giving. "The perception of the man in the pew of the Cooperative Program is worldwide missions, not state convention," he said. "When you chip away at that, some people will be willing to chip away on what they give."

Home Mission Board administrators were not available for comment.

To take effect, the new procedure must be approved by the State Board of Missions Sept. 9 and the Florida State Convention, which meets Nov. 14-16. The change won't take effect until 1996 and will be reconsidered after three years.

The Florida proposal is the latest in a series of state-level actions that are redefining the relationships between the SBC and state conventions, which are autonomous bodies.

— In Texas, Baptists will vote this fall on a plan that would allow churches to designate all their Cooperative Program gifts for use in Texas, rather than sending a required portion to the SBC. The plan also would count contributions to virtually any Baptist cause, including the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, as Cooperative Program.

— Georgia Baptists last fall authorized a study of whether churches must cooperate with the SBC to be in good standing with the state convention.

Critics say such changes will cause an erosion in historic Baptist cooperation and undermine the Baptist cause. Others say the changes reflect a social trend of decentralization and a loss of confidence in the conservative leadership of SBC agencies.

Warner is editor, Associated Baptist Press.

22 jobs, \$1.4 million pared from HMB

ATLANTA (BP) — An administrative reorganization of the Home Mission Board will save \$1.4 million a year. The new structure approved by HMB directors Aug. 10 will eliminate 22 staff positions and suspend funding for three others.

HMB directors also appointed 20 home missionaries, endorsed 39 chaplains, voted to stop receiving funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and answered a new challenge to a controversial document dealing with Catholics and evangelicals.

Half of the jobs eliminated in the reorganization are leadership positions including five national missionaries, and half are support positions including clerical, secretarial, and maintenance staff.

With six votes against the action, HMB directors voted to immediately stop accepting funds channeled through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as directed by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla., last June.

Rose Bear, board member from Terre Haute, Ind., issued a tearful plea not to comply with the SBC directive.

"If we adopt this motion we are saying it would be better for an immigrant family to not have a Bible at all than to have one purchased with CBF dollars; it would be better for a child to go hungry than to have a bowl of soup bought with CBF funds. I am not willing to say that," Bear said.

"Our Southern Baptist brothers and sisters who have been giving to this missions agency are not our

rivals," Bear continued. "They are our allies, whether they send their money by CP (Cooperative Program) CBF, UPS, Western Union, or carrier pigeon."

On the other hand, Walter Carpenter, attorney and board member from Houston, said the agency needed to reject CBF funds because, "We have been accused of being more interested in money than principle."

Board chairman Bob Curtis of Ballwin, Mo., reported on formation of a special committee to study relationships between the agency and state Baptist conventions. The committee was authorized by the HMB executive committee in June. Curtis said the committee will hold its first meeting later this month, will meet with state executive directors in September, and will submit a report to directors in November.

Committee members are Gene Bowman from Georgia; Marvin Capehart, New Mexico; Ann Cushing and Edwin Hayes, Alabama; Tom Madden, Tennessee; Greg Martin, Mississippi; and Shirley Russell, Louisiana. Two HMB executive staff will serve as ex-officio members — Ernest Kelley, executive vice president, planning and finance, and Gary Jones, vice president of the services section. Curtis will chair the committee.

HMB President Larry Lewis also informed board members Bob Banks, HMB executive vice president, operations, will retire in December 1995. He is a 13-year HMB employee with more than 40 years of denominational service.



Albanian evangelism blitz

MAFSHEQ, Albania — Albanian Eranda Papacru and American Tammy Thiessen prepare a "Jesus" film reel for Project AERO — Albanian Evangelical Rural Outreach. Betty Dobbs of Clinton also participated in the effort. More than 2,300 decisions for Christ were registered this summer at film showings in more than 175 villages. (BP photo by Jim Burton)

MALT walk-ins welcome

It's not too late to join the 1,100 registrants planning to attend the Metro Area Leader Training (MALT) conference Aug. 26-27 at First Church, Jackson, according to organizers.

"Walk-in registrations will be welcome. We're real pleased with the registrations so far, and we are expecting quite a few more to register on the days of the conference," said James Webster, MALT steering committee chairman and director of church services for Hinds-Madison Association.

Walk-in registration will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 26, and

at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27. Registration on both days will be conducted in First Church's Fellowship Hall East at the State Street entrance.

The MALT sessions, each lasting 50 minutes, will begin at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 26. Sessions on Saturday, Aug. 27, will start on the hour beginning at 8 a.m. and running through the final session that begins at 12 noon.

For more information, contact Webster at 6530 Dogwood View Parkway, Jackson, MS 39213. Telephone: (601) 362-8676.

In novel approach to outreach ministry...

New Jersey church hosts teen forums on sex, relationships

By David Winfrey

BASKING RIDGE, N.J. (BP) — A New Jersey church has taken two of the toughest topics for teenagers — sex and relationships — and turned them into outreach opportunities in their community.

Last year, Millington Church, a Conservative Baptist Association church, initiated a week-long summer camp for junior high school students titled, "Sex and Dating: What Are You Waiting For?"

The program included some material from the Southern Baptist True Love Waits campaign and was designed to help students resist pressures to become sexually active before marriage, says Glen Murphy, minister of discipleship and outreach.

Murphy said part of the camp's motivation came from seeing his daughter approach her teen years. "Some of it began through my own personal desires to reach peers of hers."

The church mailed invitations to the parents of every junior high school student in the town of about 19,000 residents, he said.

"There was a lot of incredible support from parents in town," Murphy says. "We hit a very raw

nerve there among parents of kids who may not even be churched but were frightened about the road their kids were on."

Sessions included talks with older teenagers from a variety of backgrounds. Some had been sexually active and later regretted it, others discussed how they had remained chaste. Campers also met a single mother who discussed her responsibilities and difficulties.

This year, the summer program centered on teens' relationships with themselves, parents, friends, the opposite sex, and God. Topics included communication, how to be treated more maturely by parents, and resolving conflicts.

"Kids get into conflicts real easily, but they don't know how to get out of them," Murphy says.

The two programs will alternate yearly so seventh-graders and eighth-graders can attend both, Murphy said.

Attendance grew from about 35 last year to 55 this year, he said. "I think it will continue to grow. We're gaining a real positive reputation in the community for what we're doing here."

While Vacation Bible School

Texas CP study committee proposes 3 giving avenues

By Toby Druin

DALLAS (BP) — The Cooperative Missions Giving Study Committee voted Aug. 8 to recommend to the General Convention of Texas this fall that what constitutes support of the Cooperative Program be expanded to include gifts to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Texas causes only, among others.

Instead of the two-tiered "BGCT Operated" and "BGCT Directed" approach approved July 29, which they later concluded was confusing, the committee agreed at their sixth meeting in Dallas Aug. 8 to recommend the following to the annual meeting in Amarillo, Oct. 31-Nov. 1:

"That the BGCT will recognize and distribute as Texas Cooperative Program contributions from the churches given in any or all of the following ways:

"(1) Gifts to the adopted budget of the BGCT and the adopted budget of the SBC according to the annually adopted percentage allocation between the two.

"(2) Gifts to the adopted budget of the BGCT (Texas missions and ministries).

"(3) Gifts to the adopted budget of the BGCT and to other worldwide Baptist missions and ministries.

"These may include such entities as the Southern Baptist Convention, any agency of the South-

ern Baptist Convention, Woman's Missionary Union, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Baptist World Alliance, and other missions and ministries within the Baptist family.

"Note: The BGCT will continue to recognize the decision of a church to delete up to a total of five line items in the BGCT budget and/or the SBC budget."

In recent years only undesignated gifts for the BGCT and SBC

budgets have been considered "Cooperative Program," although since 1991 churches have been able to delete up to five line items and still have their gifts considered CP. More restrictive gifts were considered "designated" and were included with mission offerings in totals published quarterly in the Baptist Standard news-journal.

Druin is associate editor, Texas BAPTIST STANDARD.

Chapman, Sherman differ over Tx. proposal

By Toby Druin

DALLAS (BP) — Leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship responded as might have been expected to the report of the Texas Cooperative Missions Giving Study Committee and its recommendation that gifts to the CBF be recognized as "Cooperative Program."

Cecil Sherman, CBF coordinator, said, "The committee has affirmed a very powerful Baptist idea. They are putting the authority in the hands of each local congregation. They are laying out all the options.

"They are also affirming that a cooperating church in Texas is a church that cooperates with the General Convention of Texas.

"This is a good report. Every once in a while Baptists do something Baptist. That is a very Baptist report."

Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, predicted the report and its recommendation regarding CBF gifts "will be unacceptable to the

majority of Southern Baptist churches in Texas."

"It is a departure from the partnership which has long existed between the state convention and the SBC," Chapman said. "It is a departure from anything in the past. It is true that years ago the Cooperative Program included SBC-sanctioned missions offerings, namely Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong. Never, never have organizations without any direct accountability to the messengers of the SBC been included beyond the state gifts."

Perhaps worst of all, Chapman said, "it is an erosion of the good faith cooperative spirit which has characterized the work between the BGCT and the SBC and its agencies."

"I hope grass-roots Texas Baptists will defeat the committee's recommendation and preserve the Cooperative Program as it has stood since 1925."

Druin is associate editor, Texas BAPTIST STANDARD.

Strengthen your marriage with N.O. fall conference

NEW ORLEANS — A "Fall Festival of Marriage" conference will be held Sept. 16-18 at the New Orleans Seminary. All married and engaged couples are invited to attend.

With the theme "Husbands and Wives: The Best of Friends," this three-day conference is sponsored annually by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Keynote speakers this year are Bob and Yvonne Turnbull, national marriage enrichment leaders from Mission Viejo, Calif.

The workshops will include communication skills, conflict resolution, intimacy, stress, friendship, romance on a budget, parenting, spiritual oneness, newlywed issues, self-esteem, and finances. Also featured will be a candlelight renewal of vows, concerts, and drama presentations.

This conference can make good

marriages better or provide help for hurting marriages; free counseling will be provided on Sept. 17.

Cost per couple is \$90; ministerial/missionary and group discounts are available. Lodging and meals are additional. For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., 70126-4895, or call 504-282-4455, ext. 3260.



Falwell gains influence in SBC, in convention's rightward swing

By Mark Wingfield

LYNCHBURG, Va. (ABP) — Independent Baptist Jerry Falwell has flooded the mailboxes of Southern Baptist pastors this summer, leading some to question anew whether Falwell intends to deliver himself into the Southern Baptist Convention as well.

As the SBC has swung to the right in the last 15 years, Baptist watchers frequently have asked whether the SBC and the fundamentalist televangelist eventually will find themselves standing in exactly the same camp.

Falwell has said on several occasions that he has no intention of becoming a Southern Baptist. But some of the SBC's new conservative leaders have continued to court Falwell and lend their support to his ministries. Although Falwell still has not affiliated with the SBC, his associations with Southern Baptists have continued to multiply.

The latest evidence of this arrived in the mailboxes of some Southern Baptist pastors this summer. Pastors in at least four states — Kentucky, Texas, Florida, and Virginia — report having received two unsolicited mailings from Falwell in May and June.

The first was a 20-page newspaper called the Liberty Flame. It featured articles on religion and politics, mixed with promotion of Falwell's Liberty University. Southern Baptists highlighted in the articles included then-SBC President Ed Young, evangelist Rick Gage, and SBC seminary president Paige Patterson.

The back page of the newspaper showed photographs and names of

Liberty University's board of trustees. Of 32 trustees, eight are prominent Southern Baptists: evangelist Freddie Gage; Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church, Dallas; Richard Lee, pastor of Rehobeth Church, Atlanta; James Merritt, pastor of First Church in the Atlanta suburb of Snellville; evangelist and former SBC President Bailey Smith; Jerry Vines, pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Ike Reighard, pastor of New Hope Church, Fayetteville, Ga.; and Beverly LaHaye, an author/lecturer and member of Montrose Church, Rockville, Md.

The newspaper was followed a month later by a direct-mail piece promoting Falwell's "Super Conference" to be held in Lynchburg in October.

Eight of 12 key speakers at that event are prominent Southern Baptists: O.S. Hawkins and his wife Susan; Bailey Smith and his wife Sandy; Ed Young and his wife Jo Beth; and Rick Warren and his wife Kay. Hawkins is pastor of First Church, Dallas; Young is pastor of Second Church, Houston; and Warren is pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church, Mission Viejo, Calif.

One of Falwell's closest friends among the SBC's new leaders is Paige Patterson, now president of Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. When Patterson was in trouble with trustees of his former employer, Criswell College in Dallas, in 1991, Falwell offered for Patterson to become president of Liberty University. Patterson declined.

Another friend is Reighard, who invited Falwell to speak to this summer's Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in Orlando, Fla. At that gathering, Falwell praised the "spiritual and theological restoration" of the SBC but said he had no plans to join the convention.

"Our friendship is based on what we believe and what we're trying to accomplish," he said in an interview in Orlando. Although a more formal merger has not received his "serious consideration," that's not to say it couldn't happen, he explained. Later that night, Falwell was hosted at a reception attended by top SBC leaders.

He has spoken twice at First Church, Snellville, Ga., where Liberty trustee James Merritt is pastor. Merritt is an up-and-coming young conservative leader who at one time was offered the pastorate of First Church, Dallas.

In October 1992, Falwell shared the Snellville podium with Oliver North, who then was speaking across America in an attempt to raise \$5 million for legal expenses incurred when he was charged with lying to Congress about the Iran-Contra affair.

Falwell also has spoken at Rehobeth Church, Atlanta, his second appearance at the church where Richard Lee is pastor. Lee served on the board of the PTL television ministry when Falwell took over in the aftermath of Jim Bakker's fall from grace. Lee now serves as a trustee of Liberty University.

Wingfield is news director, Kentucky WESTERN RECORDER.

Thursday, August 25, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Not average prayer meeting

RAs, GAs, Acteens, and Mission Friends of Cedar Grove Church, Columbia, recently received a seven-week series of Wednesday night CPR lessons. Kathy Stuckey, EMS first responder and dispatcher, and Keith Stuckey, safety officer for the Tri-Community Volunteer Fire Department (VFD), taught the young people basics of first aid, 911 emergency calls, fire prevention and safety tips, and use of fire equipment. Wayne Miller of the Southwest Marion VFD, Brent and Tona Bass, Chasta Stuckey, and Charles Arthur also assisted in teaching children proper ways to respond to medical and other emergencies. RA leaders are Betty Breland, Mike Breland, David Watts, and Keith Stuckey. GA leaders are Carol Arthur and Patsy May. Acteens leaders are Cissy Beard and Patty Watts. Mission Friends leaders are Anna Serrette and Julia Fortenberry. David Green is pastor, Cedar Grove.

River Ministry offers hope to inner-city Memphians

MEMPHIS (BP) — The sights of inner-city Memphis are not pretty. Consider these:

— Dilapidated houses with peeling paint and loose boards are the rule rather than the exception on most inner-city streets.

— Faces lined with fear stare at cars carrying white males, wondering if you're a drug dealer, seller, or narcotics agent.

— A 1-year-old baby playing in an old playpen, unaware he has been abandoned by his parents, with his hope for the future in the hands of an elderly couple on welfare seeking to adopt him and his preschool-age sister.

But, says Tim Cox, Memphis inner-city pastor and Mississippi River Ministry coordinator for Shelby County Association, "If we don't tell them about Jesus, who will?"

Whereas many Southern Baptist churches within shouting distance of inner-city Memphis have moved away, Brinkley Heights Church, where Cox is pastor, is among the few that have stayed to try to minister where most fear to tread.

With meager resources and relatively few members, it could be a hopeless task. But through ministry options like Mississippi River Ministry and Urban Allies, a plan which teams Baptist churches for work in specific distressed areas of a city, inroads are being made. As the association's church and community ministries director, Cox coordinates both those efforts for the association.

Brinkley Heights is the hub for most of the MRM work around Memphis this summer. During the week the church functions similarly to a Baptist center, providing food and clothing to those in need, as well as spiritual counseling to those who utilize the service offered by the church.

Cox, who is a Home Mission Board Mission Service Corps volunteer, has worked in inner-city Memphis the past five years. He was bivocational until three years ago when he felt the call to devote himself full time to the ministry needs of the area.

Cox is well aware Memphis is not unlike many other urban cities, although a recent report lists Memphis with the second-highest rate of poverty among U.S. metropolitan areas of more than 500,000 people.

Cox observed before "you can share the gospel you have to demonstrate that you care."

Mississippi River Ministry is one way of offering hope and God's love to those "living on the edge of disaster," he said.

Falwell is moving toward SBC, may join — may even be future president, observers say

By Mark Wingfield

LYNCHBURG, Va. (ABP) — Whether Jerry Falwell remains a well-liked but distant relative to the Southern Baptist Convention or moves into the family manor could be an indicator of the SBC's future, some Baptists believe.

"I expect Jerry Falwell to be president of the SBC before he dies," predicted Baptist historian Walter Shurden of Mercer University. As conservatives "continue to push the SBC to the edge of American religious life," he said, the denomination will become an attractive haven for Falwell.

That could have tragic consequences for the SBC, some observers said.

"The day Jerry Falwell comes into the Southern Baptist Convention, you will see the split," said a former Lynchburg-area pastor who asked not to be identified. "A lot of middle-of-the-road people who have hung in will not take that," said the pastor, who

himself has adopted a centrist stance.

Nick Habel, a 75-year-old retired Baptist pastor from the Lynchburg area who has been at odds with both Falwell and the SBC's conservative swing, said the distance has indeed narrowed between the famed preacher and the SBC. But it's the SBC that has done all the moving, Habel said.

"He (Falwell) has stood where he's always been, and Southern Baptists have sort of cut the ground out of where we used to be," he said.

As recently as June 1994, Falwell said the finances of his ministries still were not on solid footing.

"We're still poor, and our finances are tight," he said in an article published in the Richmond Times-Dispatch. "We're tightening the belt and doing all things that are prudent."

Falwell reported that Liberty University had a \$7 million oper-

ating deficit at the end of 1993.

And last month, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools put Liberty University's academic accreditation on "warning" status because of its financial problems, according to the Times-Dispatch.

"Falwell can't really see any advantage" to joining the SBC, said evangelist Bailey Smith. Southern Baptists "are flooding" Falwell's school already, Smith said.

Although his school has no official relationship to the Southern Baptist Convention, Liberty University is fast becoming a prominent training ground for Southern Baptist students. Falwell said in June that about 40% of the school's 14,000 students are Southern Baptists.

"It's safe to say," noted Falwell spokesman Mark DeMoss, "that Liberty University has become the Christian undergraduate school of choice for an awful

large number of Southern Baptists."

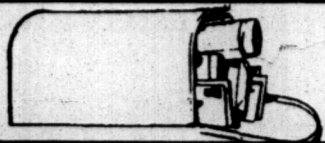
"It's almost a Southern Baptist school," explained Smith, a former SBC president. "There are more Southern Baptist ministerial students at Liberty than at any Southern Baptist school."

Smith and other prominent SBC conservatives — such as Jerry Vines, Freddie Gage, and Richard Lee — have sent their own children to Liberty.

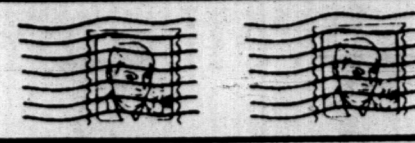
Meanwhile, the SBC has continued to smooth the way for churches like Falwell's to enter the convention.

"The day of bitterness is generally over" between Southern Baptists and independent fundamentalists, Young told the SBC Executive Committee. "They like who we are. They like where we're going, and they're ready to come home to a Bible-believing denomination."

Wingfield is news director, Kentucky WESTERN RECORDER.



Letters to the editor



Rethink rec cuts

Editor:

At a Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Memphis in the late 1940s, Chester Swor pled with the Convention to establish some sort of body to assist the churches in ministering through recreation — help for parties, banquets, fellowships, sports, drama, puppetry, crafts, camping, etc. Several years later the Convention in session voted to organize the Church Recreation Service, placing it at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Agnes Durant Pylant was named by the Board as Church Recreation's first director. She had had years of experience both in doing church recreation in the local church and in teaching it at Southwestern Seminary and Wayland Baptist College.

From the '50s to the '90s Church Recreation has served the churches. Agnes Pylant, Bob Boyd, and Ray Conner were its leaders through those decades. Church Recreation Magazine was begun to provide help in all phases of recreation ministry. It was the only magazine of its kind in the world.

The Church Recreation Department also supplied the churches with materials in all phases of recreation — puppetry how-to, puppet scripts, drama aids, day camp for young and old, and a new approach to recreation ministry called adventure recreation. And then came Centrifuge and Crosspoint — camps held all over the U.S., in the suburbs and in the inner city, and in locations overseas. Hundreds of thousands of youths and their leaders have been ministered to.

Now the Sunday School Board has chosen to cut the ministry of Church Recreation to its bare bones. They have continued to keep Centrifuge and Crosspoint going, and God is blessing mightily through them.

But the Church Recreation Magazine is no more; rec labs and other field events are left to the two or three recreation staff members still at the Board. There is no department, simply a small part of a section of another department. The thousands who have been called to share as recreation ministers find themselves now without needed materials.

Having given almost 40 years of my life to the ministry of Christ through church recreation, I simply request that the Sunday School Board reconsider its decision. Reaching people through recreation is a vital part of the Christian church's evangelistic calling.

Frank Hart (F. O.) Smith
Nashville

Ego razes churches

Editor:

This letter is a plea to all churches who have a power struggle going on in their church. Please don't destroy your church! This is the one thing that I've found that can cause so much hurt

and destruction. We are all, those who are Christian, working toward the same goal and that is to see God's work go forward. If you are one of those people who want to control and feel you have to be the chairman or serve on all the committees of the church, just stop. Take a look at yourself and decide if you're really doing what the Lord would have you do, or what makes your ego swell with pride. This is the problem in our church so I can speak with knowledge of this kind of situation. Let everyone feel they are part of God's work, give everyone who is willing to take a place of responsibility a job to do. We all need and want to feel needed, whether it be in church, home, or work.

We are without a pastor at this time and I pray that the man God sends our way will be strong enough to deal with this kind of problem. He must not yield to the power group in order to keep his job. I hope he can be so filled and surrounded by God's power that he'll be able to do great things for God's people.

So please, church members, don't destroy your fellow members with the need and selfish desire for power. You're hurting others and destroying God's work.

Name withheld

What about angels?

Editor:

Do you believe there are angels? This question is being asked by many people in many different formats. I have heard this same question being asked by TV talk show hosts and news anchors.

Why all the sudden interest in angels? I believe it has to do with the spiritualizing of America. Americans are showing a great interest in the supernatural.

But, are there angels? Certainly there are angels. In fact there are only a very few books of the Bible that do not make mention of angels. Angels are prominent throughout the Scripture. Angels are indeed very real and to deny the existence of angels, one would have to deny the existence of God.

However, the problem comes when people begin to look to angels for comfort, guidance, and salvation. Our salvation is found only in Jesus Christ our Lord (John 14:6). Concerning comfort and guidance, Jesus taught that the Holy Spirit would give us comfort and guidance (John 14:16-26).

Although we believe in angels, our faith is in Jesus Christ our Lord, and not angels. Angels can save no one. Jesus is the only Savior (Acts 4:12), and he shares that distinction with no one, be he man or angel! Thank God for angels and the marvelous ministry they have. But, thank God above all for Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Bible teaches us that Satan will come to us as an angel of light. Many are being deceived by him today. Thank God there's only one Jesus and he alone is King of kings and Lord of lords.

Do we believe in angels? Yes,

we believe in angels, but our faith and trust is in Jesus Christ, "Lord of Glory."

Jim Pender, pastor
Antioch Church
Loun

Divine plan, not federal

Editor:

I was disgusted to see in The Baptist Record, Aug. 4, the religious leaders' appeal for universal health coverage. These leaders include several well-known Baptists. Where in the Scriptures does it indicate that the care of the poor and needy is the responsibility of the government?

I believe the Scriptures teach the care of the poor and needy is the responsibility of the church. The church long ago shirked this duty and it was taken on by government.

This care is to be funded by our tithes and offerings. It is the sole responsibility of the deacons to administer this program. I believe the Lord knew the amount required in the storehouse when he instituted the tithe. I am sure if a tithe was brought to the storehouse there would be a sufficient amount to meet the needs.

It seems the churches have taken the tithe to finance their large religious organization bureaucracies and building programs and left the poor and needy up to someone else.

With the scriptural plan, the non-member and non-worker would have a problem — maybe, that was also part of the plan.

These religious leaders want us to pay our tithes and also take care of everyone, cradle to grave, with our taxes. If the government is going to take on more of the responsibility that is the churches', are the religious leaders saying that we should send part of our tithe to the government? Government has never before solved a problem, except to protect us from without, so why should we think it can solve this one?

I believe we should be doing what we know is the Lord's will for our lives and implement his divine plan.

Albert Prince Jr.
Bay Springs

Civil vs. godly duties

Editor:

Regarding the Aug. 9 Jodie Cothen letter to the editor, in addition to Romans 13 and I Timothy 1 and 2 instructing us to pray "for all that are in authority," please note that in Matthew 22:21 we are told to "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."

Out of many, let us choose one "thing" for an example. Are our children the possession of "Caesar"; or are they the possession of God who entrusts them to us to parent? The latter, of course. So, we are not to docilely surrender children to the State to mold and indoctrinate just because the State

says we are to.

God ordained civil government as his magistrate to administer his law. Jesus declared "All authority is given unto me," even authority over Caesar (government). So government is to obey him.

When civil government does not administer his law, God's children — Christians — are to discipline civil government and make it obey God.

Neither Scripture nor the Constitution of these States United authorizes the central government to be in the businesses of health, welfare, education, power, transportation, care for the elderly, insurance, social security, control of human reproduction, murder of the unborn, etc. Yet the central government is in all these businesses, and more.

Citizen Christians are to pray for those in authority — yes. We are to pray that those in authority obey God's law and administer it. We are to pray that they do God's will — not their own will.

Besides, government produces nothing. It has no funds of its own with which to pay for any of these things. It has just arrogantly arrogated to itself the power to do them and then forced us (and future generations) to cover the cost — all un-Constitutionally.

George Washington said, "Government is not eloquence. Government is force; and, like fire, a dangerous servant and a fearful master."

Our children, our grandchildren, our homes, our health, our nation, etc., are not the possession of megalomaniacs posing as Caesar. We are not to render the former to the latter. God alone is sovereign.

Prayer, Doctor Cothen, is not "our only instructions regarding the government and those in authority."

Setting government straight is, therefore, glorifying God. "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34).

Curtis Caine
Jackson

Rejoice, not begrudge

Editor:

As a director of missions (DOM) I am an extension of and resource to the local church, available to assist with needs, problems, training, and pastoral supply. I am also an extension of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. I assist the convention with program and mission promotion, communication with churches, and in implementing the task of telling Mississippi and the world about Jesus. Every DOM is a real missionary, doing real mission work, working with real churches, with a real pastor's heart, nurturing and encouraging individuals and churches to be all they can be for Jesus.

Therefore, the \$125 per month allocated to assist associations in Mississippi is money spent direct-

ly for missions, helping churches work together in telling people about Jesus. Anyone who would begrudge this token allocation has no comprehension of the purpose, work, or tremendous effectiveness of the local Baptist association. I believe it is time we let everyone in on the secret. God is working through our associations, and the original MBC decision to help maintain and support this vital link with the local church has proved to be quite productive.

But the question is still asked, why have we not increased SBC giving in Mississippi? Our DOMs know that for the past 10 years most of our churches have not been financially able to raise their CP percentages, and others are struggling to meet the missions needs in their own Jerusalem while at the same time giving a generous portion through the CP.

I believe we would do better to rejoice in already being the largest per capita convention contributor to SBC causes, and until the economy improves in Mississippi, to continue to maintain this already achieved standard of excellence without apology.

The MBC Budget Committee members have been faithful stewards of the resources we have placed in their hands. Let us not continue to raise issues that would detract from their faithfulness. We have an excellent balance of support of local, home, and foreign missions. Let us continue this balance with rejoicing and quit trying to undermine the work of our existing state missions programs.

Dale Little, DOM
Adams-Union Associations
Natchez

Reeves, Truitt emeritus, dies in Brandon

James Lester Reeves, 86, pastor emeritus of Paul Truitt Memorial Church, Pearl, died of heart failure at his home in Brandon Aug. 18.

Services were held Aug. 20 at Paul Truitt Memorial Church, with burial in Floral Hills Cemetery.

An Attala County native, Reeves was a graduate of Clarke College and New Orleans Seminary.

His ministry of 55 years began with mission work in Pascagoula. He led in organizing First Church, Gautier, and pastored there eight years. He also pastored First Church, Richland, for four years before serving Truitt Memorial from 1954-76.

He was active in Rankin Association, serving in several capacities, including moderator.

Survivors include his wife Mabel of Brandon; a son, James of Jackson; daughters, BeBe Richardson of Jackson and Charlotte Landrum of Houston, Texas; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

HouseTops

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 25, 1994

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

CELEBRATING CHRIST THROUGH THE ARTS

go to
National Drama Festival
November 11, 12, 13, 1994

Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee

The nation's largest drama, puppetry, and clowning festival is set in the new auditorium and facilities of Two Rivers Baptist Church, 2800 McGavock Pike (across from Opryland USA). Special guests are "Budzo" the clown, Bill Hendricks, Greg Cagle, "KOKOMO" the clown, Calvin Miller, Doug Berky, Jeanette George, Ragan Courtney, and many more. The National Drama Festival will also feature performance demonstrations by professional groups/individuals, college/university teams, and seminary groups along with performance opportunities. There will be over 200 conferences from which to choose. The cost is \$69 per person before October 11. The festival begins with registration on Friday, November 11 at 2:00 p.m. and ends Sunday, November 13 at 3:30 p.m.

To register contact the Church Program Training Center, Baptist Sunday School Board, P.O. Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37202.

Lay Missions Conference



Jesus in our generation is so significant that each of us become marketplace ministers.

October 31, 1994
First Baptist Church,
Jackson
Missions Fellowship
Interest Conference, 5 p.m.
Banquet: 5 p.m.

Sponsored by the
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Pray this day... **September 1-15**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Giving to missions - that special privilege we need to prepare for this time of year...in Mississippi we will be giving to the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions during September...and to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions in December...let's begin to pray that we will plan to be able to give generously and with a cheerful heart...thinking about state missions this month.				for the decisions made by the more than 2000 girls who attended Garaywa this summer 1	that the ministry done by men and women who went on disaster relief trips this year will continue to be a blessing to those who were helped 2	for the programs of BSU work on seven historically black campuses in our state 3
for congregations using the sixteen mobile chapels the Convention owns 4	for the Choctaw Indians who play the piano for church and teach others to play the piano because of music lessons provided by the Margaret Lackey Offering 5	for the decisions made by RA members at Central Hills during summer camp 6	for the Criminal Justice State Task Force which provides training and resource materials for churches to have jail and prison ministries 7	for people in the many apartment complexes who are being touched by the ministries started by our church planters 8	for National Baptist women who have help with special projects because of the offering 9	for those who work with employees at Parchman and their families 10
for those who work at the satellite prison in south Mississippi 11	for the leadership in churches which receive church building aid 12	for those who receive pastoral aid 13	for those who work to prepare the study materials for state missions 14	for those who prepare the mailouts of the materials 15	Prayer Ministry Office P.O. Box 520 Jackson, MS 39201 Phone: 769-3000 Mississippi Prayer Line 1-800-781-PRAY	

• JANUARY 1 -]

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PROGRAM GIVING REPORT

1 - JULY 31

	CP			All				CP			All				CP			All				CP			All		
	Gifts	Other	Total	Gifts	Other	Total		Gifts	Other	Total	Gifts	Other	Total		Gifts	Other	Total	Gifts	Other	Total		Gifts	Other	Total	Gifts	Other	Total
FELLOWSHIP	3,475.50	1,441.50	4,917.00	POPLAR SPRINGS DRIVE	52,500.00	34,354.85	86,854.85	PARKSIDE	150.00	350.00	500.00	CALVARY GLOSTER	3,975.05	3,479.35	7,454.40	LAWRENCE	893.74	346.06	1,239.80	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
FREEDOM	11,736.00	7,250.00	18,986.00	RUSSELL	17,706.00	15,481.41	33,187.41	PARKWAY	16,172.25	13,020.15	29,192.40	CENTREVILLE	26,491.02	8,828.75	35,319.77	MIDWAY	2,611.00	2,157.00	4,768.00	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
FRIENDSHIP	1,424.26	564.00	1,988.26	SALEM	525.00	2,484.00	3,009.00	PRICEVILLE	4,376.72	2,663.53	7,040.25	CROSBY	3,160.59	1,762.87	4,923.46	MT NEBO	2,278.89	2,820.92	5,099.81	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
GLADE	15,001.23	8,538.32	23,539.55	SOUTH SIDE	14,037.41	6,048.83	20,086.24	RICHMOND	2,277.72	1,889.91	4,167.63	EBENEZER	1,552.41	1,696.45	3,248.86	MT PLEASANT	180.00	440.00	620.00	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
GRACE	1,571.69	2,116.00	3,687.69	STATE BOULEVARD	26,684.44	8,768.90	35,453.34	SHERMAN	10,067.93	7,505.36	17,573.29	ENTERPRISE	1,510.19	1,172.64	2,682.83	MT VERNON	3,530.91	2,862.83	6,393.74	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
HARMONY	10,358.27	5,251.32	15,609.59	TOOMSUBA	7,304.88	3,569.21	10,874.09	SKYLINE TUPELO	0.00	115.64	115.64	FBC GALILEE	9,085.01	8,020.60	17,105.61	NEW IRELAND	360.88	244.67	605.55	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
HEBRON	9,031.35	5,272.14	14,303.49	TRINITY	525.00	870.39	1,395.39	TEMPLE TUPELO	264.00	0.00	264.00	GILLSBURG	5,950.00	9,539.36	15,489.36	PINCKNEY	1,364.00	1,144.00	2,508.00	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
HIGHLAND	31,883.19	31,621.55	63,504.74	WESTWOOD	19,720.10	11,848.33	31,568.43	UNION CHAPEL	880.00	315.00	1,195.00	GLADING	757.13	891.68	1,648.81	POPLAR SPRINGS	829.30	4,154.42	4,983.72	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
HILLCREST	488.12	75.00	563.12	WESTWOOD	503,433.65	353,996.83	857,430.48	WEST JACKSON STREET	34,441.09	7,290.74	41,731.83	HEBRON	2,855.07	4,282.75	7,137.82	ROCK BRANCH	1,163.00	1,171.00	2,334.00	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
HOUSTON ROAD	5,443.85	2,853.13	8,296.98	LAWRENCE	0.00	390.35	390.35	635,732.12	330,154.57	965,886.69	LIBERTY	26,491.56	21,476.06	47,967.62	SULPHUR SPRINGS	7,427.99	6,283.80	13,711.79	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	
INDIAN SPRINGS	17,235.94	11,405.18	28,641.12	ANTIOCH	0.00	390.35	390.35	LEFLORE	6,913.79	3,888.00	10,801.79	MARS HILL	3,259.47	2,648.93	5,908.40	NORTH DELTA	320.00	625.00	945.00	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
LAWN HAVEN	1,907.16	2,380.30	4,287.46	ARM	3,193.04	2,411.59	5,604.63	CALVARY	6,747.42	4,046.38	10,793.80	MT OLIVE	2,776.34	2,839.65	5,615.99	BELEN	320.00	625.00	945.00	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
LOWERY CREEK	5,152.26	4,390.99	9,543.25	BETHEL	16,583.95	4,718.05	21,302.00	CHRIST	6,747.42	4,046.38	10,793.80	MT PLEASANT	3,722.02	5,056.36	8,778.38	BEREA	331.42	159.46	490.88	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
MAGNOLIA	12,928.56	8,894.06	21,822.62	CALVARY	8,870.54	4,072.95	12,943.49	FBC GREENWOOD	34,802.50	12,849.40	47,651.90	NEW SALEM	1,417.42	974.89	2,392.31	BLUE LAKE	822.57	100.00	922.57	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
MOSELLE MEMORIAL	7,593.35	5,580.24	13,173.59	CARMEL	3,722.79	750.80	4,473.59	FBC ITTA BENA	8,806.87	5,604.75	14,411.62	OAK GROVE	346.00	649.78	995.78	CHERRY STREET	1,316.09	2,271.24	3,587.33	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
MYRICK	3,278.27	1,839.20	5,117.47	CROOKED CREEK	2,630.52	1,314.68	3,945.20	FBC MINTER CITY	650.00	0.00	650.00	PIONEER	630.80	2,205.62	2,836.42	CLARKSDALE	20,401.13	29,031.80	49,432.93	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
NEW HOPE	3,353.52	646.06	3,999.58	FAITH	876.42	625.00	1,501.42	IMMANUEL	10,990.55	6,237.77	17,228.32	ROBINSON	225.00	936.00	1,161.00	CROWDER	18,805.86	12,005.50	30,811.36	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
OAKLAND GROVE	7,424.41	1,976.00	9,400.41	HEPZIBAH	790.07	598.66	1,388.73	MORGAN CITY	3,455.25	1,658.63	5,113.88	THOMPSON	3,563.24	2,765.55	6,328.79	DARLING	679.96	1,045.74	1,725.70	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
PECAN GROVE	488.02	353.51	841.53	JAYESS	790.07	598.66	1,388.73	MT VERNON	313.00	0.00	313.00	UNION	186.31	1,623.95	1,810.26	FBC LAMBERT	6,544.97	5,245.25	11,790.22	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
PINE GROVE	1,500.00	2,431.00	3,931.00	MONTECELLO	28,849.05	9,311.18	38,160.23	NORTH GREENWOOD	23,075.64	10,782.46	33,858.10	WOODVILLE	15,402.75	14,131.28	29,534.03	FBC MARKS	10,195.47	10,522.63	20,718.10	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
PLAINWAY	6,376.75	5,528.74	11,905.49	NEW HEBRON	27,479.48	9,493.02	36,972.50	PHILLIPSTON	621.29	0.00	621.29	ZION HILL	1,197.42	1,100.91	2,298.33	FBC SLEDGE	1,668.58	674.76	2,343.34	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
PLEASANT HOME	8,040.39	3,996.99	12,037.38	NEW HOPE	1,962.21	2,476.58	4,438.79	RIVERSIDE	0.00	250.00	250.00	MONROE	0.00	112.73	112.73	FBC TUNICA	10,207.24	11,010.69	21,217.93	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
SALEM HEIGHTS	9,600.00	1,513.02	11,113.02	NEW HOPE	2,220.00	250.00	2,470.00	SCHLATER	1,050.00	1,100.00	2,150.00	ANTIOCH	0.00	112.73	112.73	HOLLYWOOD	510.19	400.00	910.19	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
SAND HILL	9,370.51	1,709.88	11,080.39	NOLA	447.90	146.98	594.88	SIDON	700.00	456.27	1,156.27	ATHENS	972.43	1,458.27	2,430.70	LULA	2,496.20	2,558.00	5,054.20	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
SANDERSVILLE	13,198.79	3,932.25	17,131.04	OLIVE CREEK	3,257.67	2,250.90	5,508.57	LINCOLN	3,434.53	3,784.89	7,219.42	BARTAHATCHIE	572.93	347.38	920.31	LYON	10,871.24	10,234.81	21,106.05	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
SECOND AVENUE	4,200.00	7,768.30	11,968.30	PROVIDENCE	2,788.42	2,749.95	5,538.37	ARLINGTON	5,245.92	1,599.57	6,845.49	BECKER	4,743.37	4,250.82	8,994.19	OAKHURST	58,835.60	39,846.34	98,681.94	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
SHELTON	2,901.00	1,172.50	4,073.50	RIVERSIDE	680.45	105.88	786.33	BIG SPRINGS	470.00	480.00	950.00	BETHEL	232.00	377.00	609.00	RENA LARA	1,040.06	1,693.85	2,733.91	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
SUMMERLAND	8,627.10	4,620.32	13,247.42	SAULS VALLEY	961.06	3,257.70	4,218.76	BOGUE CHITTO	5,106.15	2,021.91	7,128.06	BIGBEE	445.95	748.96	1,194.91	RIVERSIDE	1,849.78	4,276.97	6,126.75	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
TALLAHOMA	0.00	75.00	75.00	SHALOM	965.65	641.41	1,607.06	BROOKWAY	2,570.38	589.00	3,159.38	CASON	9,897.32	3,949.99	13,847.31	UNION CHAPEL	331.00	1,385.00	1,716.00	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
TRINITY	13,443.02	9,232.48	22,675.50	SHILOH	14,648.60	6,252.05	20,900.65	CALVARY	4,700.64	2,833.42	7,534.06	CENTER HILL	7,954.41	6,237.30	14,191.71	WALNUT	1,310.01	50.00	1,360.01	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
TUCKERS CROSSING	5,619.19	5,936.50	11,555.69	TOPEKA	2,514.19	3,737.34	6,251.53	CLEAR BRANCH	2,873.00	2,095.00	4,968.00	CENTRAL GROVE	1,300.00	1,989.75	3,289.75	WEST MARKS	5,310.56	8,017.32	13,327.88	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
UNITY	4,498.91	2,050.00	6,548.91	WAVERLY	1,361.92	944.93	2,306.85	EAST LINCOLN	620.14	727.20	1,347.34	FAITH	321.08	189.00	510.08	ARKABUTLA	4,164.60	2,540.14	6,704.74	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
WEST ELUSVILLE	18,060.35	4,653.69	22,714.04	LEAKE	350.00	700.00	1,050.00	FAIR HAVEN	12,422.22	7,751.93	20,174.15	FBC ABERDEEN	29,186.71	39,751.68	68,938.39	BETHEL	865.59	1,015.00	1,880.59	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
WEST LAUREL	20,082.86	8,208.51	28,291.37	BETHEL	350.00	700.00	1,050.00	FBC BROOKHAVEN	80,232.25	276,249.82	356,482.07	FBC AMORY	67,988.49	64,363.08	132,351.57	BETT	2,421.80	403.04	2,824.84	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
WILDWOOD	7,394.76	3,641.38	11,036.14	CEDAR GROVE	50.00	50.00	100.00	FRIENDSHIP	9,219.00	7,338.70	16,557.70	FBC GATTMAN	808.67	626.49	1,435.16	BROADWAY	9,000.00	30,417.50	39,417.50	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39	LIBERTY	1,417.39	2,334.00	3,751.39
KEMPER	429,749.80	300,996.18	730,745.98	CORINATH	2,909.98	6,967.40	9,877.38	GUM GROVE	10,629.44	7,440.57	18,070.01	FRIENDSHIP	1,103.66	5,862.56	6,966.22	CARRIAGE HILLS	22,197.43	15,136.18	37,333.6								

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Recreation + growth = CrossQuest

NASHVILLE — Locations and dates are now set for "CrossQuest 1995," a series of conferences for college church groups which combine spiritual development with recreational opportunities such as snow skiing, white water rafting, and hanging out at the beach.

Sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's national student ministry, "CrossQuest" provides seminars in "3 Hours of Student Ministry," a strategy designed to minister to students through worship, Bible study, and discipleship.

Conference locations, dates, recreational features, and per person cost are as follows:

— Copper Mountain, Colo., Jan. 2-5, snow skiing, three packages from \$133 to \$248;

— Snowshoe, W. Va., March 7-10 and 12-15, snow skiing, two packages, \$105 or \$198;

— Port Aransas, Texas, March 16-19, May 22-25, beaches, \$88;

— Panama City, Fla., March 20-23 and 24-27, May 19-22, May 30-June 2, beaches, \$108;

— Ocoee, Tenn., May 26-29, white water rafting, \$118.

Each conference includes four

days and three nights accommodations, with the exception of the following conferences for 1995 high school graduates which include three days and two nights lodging:

— Chattanooga, Tenn., June 2-4, white water rafting, \$98;

— Fort Mill, S.C., June 9-11, water park, skating, \$98.

Registration opens as early as Sept. 1 for some conferences and as late as Jan. 5 for others. For more information, call Scott Allen at the national student ministry office in Nashville at (615) 251-2777.

Thursday, August 25, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7



Puckett youths go to Kentucky

Twenty-five members of the youth group of Puckett Church, Puckett, made a volunteer mission trip June 19-25 to Louisville, Ky., to conduct Vacation Bible Schools and do construction work at inner-city churches. Sponsors for the trip were Jason Ivey, minister of music and youth; Don Murphy; Brenda Murphy; Bo Morgan; and Charlotte Morgan. Barry Ward is pastor.

MBCB gets toll free number

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is experimenting with a new service to make itself more accessible to churches. The board has instituted a toll-free telephone number for use within Mississippi. The

number is 1-800-748-1651.

Mississippi Baptists having business with the convention board are welcome to utilize the number. Its cost effectiveness will determine whether it becomes a permanent service.

FOR THE RECORD

Introducing The Center For Reconstructive Urology

For the males throughout the region who suffer from urological problems, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center offers some new hope: the opening of The Center for Reconstructive Urology.

With this new facility comes a level of expertise not previously available in a five-state area.

Dr. Charles L. Secrest and Dr. James E. Keeton, both of the Mississippi Urology Clinic P. A., offer reconstructive surgery for adult and pediatric patients.

Dr. Secrest is the region's only surgeon trained in the subspecialty of urological reconstruction. Dr. James E. Keeton is a full-time pediatric urologist.

The Center focuses on surgery to treat a variety of urological disorders, including Complex urethral stricture; Hypospadias; Peyronie's

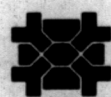
disease; Incontinence; Erectile dysfunction; Neurogenic bladder; and Genitourinary trauma.

The location of this new Center will allow urology patients to receive the expert care they need without traveling great distances. In the past, patients in the Mid-South had to leave the region for this type of surgery.

The Center will also serve as a referral resource for urologists throughout the Southeast. Patients can come here to have the complex surgeries and then return to the care of their local urologist.

An affiliate of MBMC, the Center is located on the 1st floor of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center.

For more information on the Center and the conditions that may be treated here, call 1-800-957-MBMC (6262).



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Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I am a woman in my 30s who can't have children. I am hurt and angry that my friends know this, yet continue to bring up child-related subjects that are painful to me.

Your letter is a gentle reminder of how important it is for all of us to be mindful of each other. We get so involved in our worlds that we make assumptions that everyone else sees things as we do. If these are truly your friends, be honest with them. Let them know that you need balance in the conversation and that it is time to talk about something other than children. Children take our attention because of their dependency, but we must remember that we are commanded first to love God, then others as we love ourselves. You have an opportunity to bring perspective to your friends. Look into joining a support group like Sensitive Caring, for those who are living with infertility. This group's telephone number is (601) 982-8603 in Jackson. A support group will not draw you away from your friends, but it will give an outlet for your grief and

hurt — something about which your friends know nothing.

I can't tell my fiancée about my sordid past. I know honesty is important, but I freeze up every time I try to talk with her about it.

Some important questions you must answer are:

—Have I repented of those wrongs in my past?

—Am I currently practicing those experiences?

—Have I righted those wrongs to the best of my ability?

—Will my fiancée be harmed if I don't tell her (disease, bad credit, etc.)?

—Will I wish I had told her if she hears it elsewhere?

Pray for God's insight. Talk with your pastor or counselor and get their godly counsel. This will help your perspective and allow you to see how difficult this information is to communicate to others. Listen to the still, small voice and let God guide you. He removes our sins as far as the east is from the west. Join a group of godly men who will hold you accountable for your Christian walk. They can help you become stronger in putting your past behind you.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Staff Changes

Ireland Church, Union, has called **Cartis Tucker** as pastor, effective the first of July.

Perkinston Church, Gulf Coast Association, has called **Mark Long** as pastor. He formerly served at First Church, Pass Christian.

Osborne Creek, Booneville, has called **Clyde Patton** as pastor, effective immediately.

Bay Vista Church, Biloxi, has called **Jerry N. Watts** as pastor effective Aug. 15. He moved from a two-year pastoral ministry at Griffin Street Church, Moss Point. Watts received a degree in church music from William Carey College.

Old Hebron Church, Jefferson Davis County, has called **James Randall Gardner** as pastor. Gardner is from Bassfield.

Barry Tice, minister of music and education at East Heights



Tucker



Watts

Church, Tupelo, has been called as minister of education and outreach at **First Church, Jasper, Ala.,** effective Aug. 21.

Berea Church, McCool, recently called **Tony Black** as pastor. His previous place of service was Mt. Moriah Church, Choctaw County. Black is employed by the U.S. Postal Service.

Glen Savell, a native of Mississippi and pastor of **Linden Church, Linden, Ala.,** for 15 years, has resigned to enter the field of revival and evangelistic work. Savell can be contacted by calling (205) 295-4278 or 295-8058 or by writing to him at P.O. Box 480776, Linden, AL 36748.

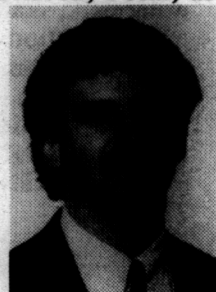


Savell

Tylertown Church, Tylertown, has called **David Sellers** as pastor and **Steve Armstrong** as minister of youth. Sellers, a native of Orlando, Fla., received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Collinsville. Armstrong, a native of Walthall County, received his education at the University of Southern

Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was State Boulevard Church, Meridian.

Mark B. Lott has been called to **Carterville Church, Petal,** as minister of education. Lott is a native of Petal. Carterville is his home church. He is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary.



Lott

Stephen K. Clark, former minister of education and youth at First Church, Magnolia, was called to serve as minister of education at **Grove Level Church, Dalton, Ga.** Clark is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary.

Charles (Smiley) Mills was called as associate pastor of **Wheeler Grove Church, Alcorn Association,** effective June 5. He previously served **Lone Oak Church, Corinth,** for eight years. Kara Blackard is pastor.



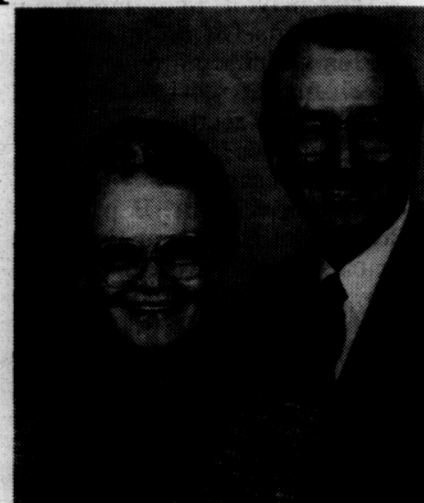
Mills

Friendship's Reid marks 25th year in pastorate

Wiley Reid, pastor of Friendship Church, Brookhaven, and his wife **Katie** will mark their 25th year in the pastorate on Sept. 2.

On Sept. 10, Friendship will honor the Reids with a reception from 2-5 p.m. On Sept. 11, there will be a special worship service, luncheon, and anniversary program.

Reid was educated at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. During his tenure at Friendship Church, Reid has served as moderator, chairman of the budget committee, director of evangelism, and as BSU advisory committee chairman for Lincoln Association.



Katie and Wiley Reid

SBC church historian retires after 35 years

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — **Claude L. Howe Jr.,** scholar in the field of Southern Baptist church history, retired July 31 after four decades at New Orleans Seminary.

A professor of church history at the seminary since 1959, Howe said his interest began in the area of mathematics. He obtained bachelor's and master's degrees in the subject from Mississippi College (MC) in 1948 and Purdue University in 1950. From 1951-54, during the Korean Crisis, he served as a finance officer with the United States Army.

Toward the end of his military service he began to feel a gradual

calling to the ministry. "It was a growing impression. My father was a minister, so I was well aware of what is involved in the life of a pastor," said Howe, who accepted a position as pastor of Mt. Pisgah Church, Sand Hill, where he served from 1954-60.

Originally from Senatobia, Howe is married to the former Joyce Whitten of Cleveland. She holds a bachelor's degree from MC and a master of religious education degree from New Orleans Seminary. She retired this year from teaching in Slidell, La. The Howes, who will continue to reside in Picayune, have one grown son.

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J. Leo Green, Bible scholar, professor, dies

DUNN, N.C. (ABP) — **J. Leo Green,** an Old Testament scholar and founding faculty member of Southeastern Seminary, died Aug. 16 after a long illness. He was 81.

One of six original faculty members at the seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., Green served as head of the Old Testament Department 27 years before retiring in 1978.

"He combined the qualities of a careful scholar with those of an enthusiastic teacher and a very good preacher," said Thomas Bland, who had known Green since 1956.

A native of Mississippi, Green earned a doctorate and became a full professor at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., at age 24.

Names in the News

NEW YORK (BP) — **George W. Cornell,** 74, was found dead in his Manhattan apartment Aug. 10. The dean of American religion writers for more than four decades, Cornell had suffered from heart problems the past two years. He was a familiar sight in the newsroom of the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meetings while covering the event for the Associated Press.

BILLINGS, Mont. (BP) — **James W. Nelson,** executive director of the Montana South-

ern Baptist Fellowship since 1985, announced he will retire Dec. 31. Nelson, 70, made his announcement at the fellowship's executive board meeting July 7, according to his column in the fellowship's monthly journal **The Montana Baptist.** He was a pastor in Alabama and Mississippi from 1951-59.

Old Hebron Church, Jefferson Davis County, recently observed homecoming and recognized **Iona H. Hutchins** for 17 years of service as church treasurer.



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RICHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH, Memphis, TN, is seeking a minister of music and youth. Those interested may send their resume to Mr. Gary Oswalt, chairman of the Search Committee, 170 N. Oak Grove Rd., Memphis, TN 38120.

WHITE SAND BAPTIST Church, Poplarville, MS is seeking one or two individuals to serve as part-time Minister(s) of Music and/or Youth. Send resumes to White Sand Baptist Church, 119 J.M. Tynes Road, Poplarville, MS 39470.

OPENING FOR DAYCARE director. First Baptist Church, Florence. Call Jerry or Hilda at (601) 845-7267.

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MC grads hear Carleton, receive diplomas Aug. 12

"The private or independent college is one of the most valuable components in the American system of higher education," said Steve Carleton, executive director/treasurer of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, as he addressed the summer graduating class of Mississippi College Aug. 12 in A.E. Wood Coliseum.

Carleton, speaking to the graduates and their families in ceremonies bringing to a close the 168th academic session at the college, praised private colleges like Mississippi College which "were committed to education in the context of a Christian world view."

He voiced concerns about the growing encroachment of the federal government in the day-

to-day life of independent colleges, however, and told the graduates that "the freedom to educate in the fashion you have enjoyed in your days here can never be taken for granted."

Degrees were conferred by Howell W. Todd, president of the college, with assistance from the vice presidents and deans of the various schools.

There were 210 diplomas awarded, with 83 receiving one of the bachelor degrees available, 109 one of the master's degrees, and two the doctor of jurisprudence from the School of Law located in downtown Jackson. The summer class increased the total number of students receiving degrees during the 1993-94 session to 886 individuals. It was the second highest total in school history.

Homecomings

New Hope (Lee): Aug. 28; 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch; Ricky Blythe, Flora, guest speaker; Greg Reed, music director; Lowell Johnson, pastor.

Siloam, Magee: Aug. 28; last homecoming in old sanctuary; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, 12 p.m.; no night services; Billy Ingram, guest speaker; Gerald Aultman, pastor.

Holly Grove, Braxton: Aug. 28; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship

hall, 12 p.m.; singing and fellowship, 1:30 p.m.; Roger Lee, pastor.

Star (Rankin): Aug. 28; challenge for building program; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m.; Lunch, 11:15 a.m.; afternoon service, 12:30; Victor Bowman, pastor.

Moak's Creek (Lincoln): Aug. 28; 124th anniversary; Billy J. Howse, pastor, speaker; Thomas and Willa Moak, music; covered dish lunch in fellowship hall following morning worship; gospel music program, 1:15 p.m.

Thursday, August 25, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Just for the Record

Medical and dental equipment is needed for the Honduras ministry of Rod Smith of Laurel. Smith is especially in need of an offset press. Smith can be contacted at (601) 428-4215 or HOPE International Ministries, P.O. Box 1055, Laurel, MS 39441.

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's Chemical Dependency Center will hold a luncheon for all youth ministers Nov. 1. Purpose is to provide information about programs for youths, families, and churches. For more information, call Nancy Helman at (601) 968-1712.

Pleasant Home Church, Laurel, will dedicate its new building on Aug. 28 at 2 p.m. An open house and reception will follow the dedication service. Donald L. Pounders is pastor.



Mars Hill Church, Philadelphia, recently broke ground for an addition to its existing fellowship hall. Members of the church's building and grounds committee, left to right, are: Billy Joe McGee, Spiva Keene, Connor Thompson, Greg Sisson, and Tony Linley, pastor.



First Church, Richland, recently celebrated "Touching our World" with its Mission Friends, GAs, RAs, Acteens, and Pioneers.

Revival Dates

Main Street, Mendenhall: Aug. 28-31; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Hueston Adkins, Sylvarena, Smith Association, evangelist; George Puckett, Mendenhall, music; Dewitt Mitchell, pastor.

First, Aberdeen: Aug. 28-31; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 11:50 a.m. and 7 p.m.; John Merck, Baton Rouge, La., evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, Agricola, La., music; Roy McHenry, interim pastor.

New Ireland, Union: Aug. 27, 7 p.m., gospel singing by The Duncan Sisters; Aug. 29-31, 6:30 p.m.; Larry Duncan, pastor of Salem, Scott County, preaching; The Duncan Sisters, music; Cartis Tucker, pastor.

First, Stonewall: five fabulous Thursdays in September; speakers for the month include John Merck, Sept. 1; Fred Wolfe, Sept. 8; Hal Taylor, Sept. 15;

Danny Lanier, Sept. 22; Terry Irby, Sept. 29; Albert McMullen, pastor.

Gooden Lake, Belzoni: Sept. 18-23; services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Jim Hill and the Hill Family, evangelist and music; Bill Hudson, pastor.

Oak Grove, Benton: Aug. 28-31; Sunday, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch; afternoon service, 1:30; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; James Yates, Yazoo City, evangelist; Dale Nowell, pastor.

First, Glendale (Lebanon): Aug. 28-31; Sunday, homecoming, 9:45 Sunday School; 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. worship; dinner on grounds, noon; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Argile Smith, New Orleans, evangelist; Daniel Lee, Hattiesburg, music; Brian Ivey, pastor.

Lone Pine (Madison): Aug. 25-26, and 27; Thurs.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.;

James E. Pugh Jr., recent heart transplant patient and pastor in Walnut Hill, Fla., evangelist; John Atchley, pastor.

Antioch, Leakesville: Aug. 28-31; Boyd Twitty, evangelist; R.L. Hullum, music; Kenneth McLendon, pastor.

New Salem, Iuka: Aug. 28-31; 7 nightly; Kenny Digby, Fulton, evangelist; Mark Garrett, New Albany, music; Clayton Littlejohn, pastor.

Big Ridge, Biloxi: Aug. 28-31; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7 nightly; Rodney Bowling, Huntsville, Ala., evangelist; Terry Hurt, Tupelo, music; Mike Priest, pastor.

Missionary News

Tom and Gloria Thurman, missionaries to Bangladesh, are on the field (address: Box 1, Gopalganj, Bangladesh 8100). He is a native of Monticello; she is the former Gloria Philpot of McWilliams, Ala.

James and Gwen Young, missionaries to Bangladesh, are in the States (address: 105 Billy Byrd, Clinton, MS 39056). They are natives of Mississippi. He is from Thomastown; she is the former Gwen Jenkins of Kosciusko.

INSPIRATIONAL TRAVEL 1994

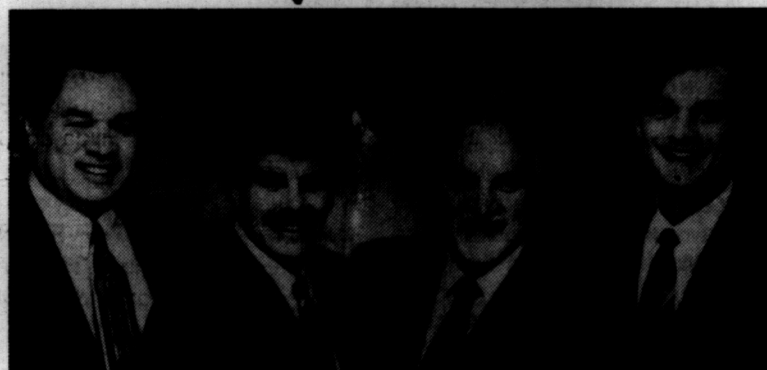
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SBC president's roots run deep in Mississippi soil

By William H. Perkins Jr.

For Jim Henry, the road to the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention includes a stopover in Hollywood — church, that is.

In Mississippi, not California.

Henry, elected president of the nation's largest Protestant denomination this past June, is currently pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., one of the fastest-growing churches in the convention and an annual leader in giving to the Cooperative Program.

Many Mississippi Baptists are unaware, however, that Henry's first pastorate fresh out of New Orleans Seminary was tiny Hollywood Church, carved from the rich Delta soil of the Jenkins' farm



Henry

field about seven miles northwest of Sledge in Quitman County.

Henry began his ministry there in June 1963, and departed for the pastorate of Two Rivers Church in Nashville in February 1965.

"Some of my greatest spiritual experiences occurred in Mississippi. The people there loved us and adopted us," he said.

The rural, agrarian setting was quite a change for Henry, who grew up in Nashville.

"For a city boy, I was wondering, 'What am I doing here?' It was a whole new world, but we (Henry and wife Jeanette) fell in love with it," he said.

"We knew he was going places. There was a special glow about him," said Shelia Pollan of Longtown, a lifetime member of Hollywood Church.

Henry baptized Pollan, her father, and her sister. It was a special day when the church called

Henry as their pastor, Pollan said.

"The deacons took a farm truck down to the seminary and loaded up their things. They drove all the way back up here with their possessions on the back of that truck," she recalled.

Henry remembers moving day, too.

"They said they would move us, so we were waiting at the seminary and this bean truck pulled up. They told us not to worry because they had a tarp if it started raining. We didn't have a whole lot, but we didn't want it ruined in the rain."

"Well, it started raining several times that day, but it always seemed to stop before we got up to it," he said.

It didn't take long after Henry's arrival for the church to quadruple

in membership to around 200 people, Pollan said. The church was bursting at the seams.



"They had Sunday School in their living room. That's the type of people they are; they mixed with the highest and the poorest and ministered to everybody," she pointed out.

The warm relationship between Hollywood Church and the Henrys has endured more than three decades.

Pollan said the Henrys have been back to visit the church, and church members often filled a bus and drove to Nashville to hear him preach at Two Rivers Church.

"We were thrilled when he was elected president of the convention. We sent him a letter of congratulations signed by all the congregation," she said.

Henry recalled that leaving Hollywood Church was harder than he could have imagined.

"As we pulled away and crossed those big drainage ditches for the last time, I felt like we were crossing the Jordan River. We cried, because we left family," he said.

Pollan already has a quick answer when asked if Hollywood Church would like to see their favorite son return to his ministerial roots in the Mississippi Delta.

"Lord, yes. You know we would!" she said.

Influential Mississippi Baptists helped mold Henry

By William H. Perkins Jr.

The newly-elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention credits Mississippi Baptists for many pivotal roles in his spiritual development and ministry career.

Jim Henry's first full-time pastorate after graduating seminary was Quitman County's Hollywood Church, a fertile training ground for the young minister who would go on to pastor First Church, Orlando, Fla. — one of the convention's leading churches.

In addition, Henry has maintained close ties for more than 30 years with Julius Thompson, director of church administration/pastoral ministries for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Thompson served 10 years as the Henry family's pastor at Dalewood Church in Nashville, beginning in 1961.

Henry's mother was Thompson's secretary for most of that time.

"Julius is more than a pastor to me; he's my friend. The esteem I have for him and for Caroline (Thompson's wife) cannot be measured," Henry said.

Thompson's mutual affection for Henry was manifested in May of this year, when Henry's father died just a few weeks before Henry was elected president of the convention.

Thompson, still recovering from surgery earlier in the month, made the long trip from Jackson to Nashville to conduct the elder Henry's funeral.

Thompson said he has watched Henry's leadership build through the years of his education and ministry.

"He was very active in student life as an undergraduate at Georgetown College in Kentucky. He went on to New Orleans Seminary, where he was elected president of the student body. I observed that everywhere he went, he emerged as a natural leader with strong personal relationships," he pointed out.

Thompson said Henry met Mississippi Chester Swor, a giant in Southern Baptist student life, while a Georgetown student.

"Chester had an overwhelming impact on Jim, and he was a strong influence in shaping Jim's Christian life as a college student. Jim had great admiration and awe for Chester," he said.

Thompson was still pastor at Dalewood when Henry was called from Hollywood Church to pastor Two Rivers Church in Nashville.

They shared many ministerial duties over the next six years as Henry built the fledgling congregation. Thompson even helped Henry ordain his first deacons at Two Rivers Church.

Thompson was eventually called to pastor First Church, Rockville, Md., and Henry went on to First Church, Orlando.

Thompson has continued to track Henry's career, and he has high hopes for his tenure as Southern Baptist Convention president.

"Jim Henry is one of the most pious, God-filled persons of our time. Divisions and controversy are not part of his nature; he's a unifier. He will reach across barriers and divisions, and make a strong effort to bring about healing and reconciliation. Jim loves

our denomination," he said.

"At the end of his term as president, I believe he will have broadened the base of appointments to institutions and agencies by appointing reasonable, responsible Southern Baptist leaders."

"His ministry will begin the process of healing for Southern Baptists. It's going to be a long-term process," Thompson said.

The new leader of Mississippi College is thankful that his life path crossed Henry's at Two Rivers Church in Nashville.

Howell W. Todd, in his first semester as president of the Baptist-affiliated college in Clinton, describes Henry as "singly the most influential pastor I ever had."

Todd, who was working for the Tennessee public university sys-

tem at the time, was a Two Rivers deacon, choir member, and frequent racquetball partner of Henry's.

He left Nashville in 1989 to direct South Dakota's institutions of higher learning.

"Jim exemplifies what it means to live a godly life. He genuinely cares for human beings, and he is so approachable. At Two Rivers, there was an excitement that I had not experienced before or, frankly, since then," Todd said.

"I was afraid to miss a service because I knew I would miss a blessing. I attribute that to Jim's leadership, his dutifully studying of the Word, praying for the church, and seeking God. In this earthly realm, I have him on a pedestal, and Jeanette (Henry's wife) is close behind," he explained.

"Jim uses simple, very forceful preaching that is readily applicable to life in today's environment. People feel so good about him because of the type of individual he is, that they perhaps overlook what a terrific preacher he is," Todd said.



Swor



Todd

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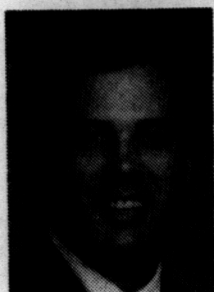
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Uniform Choose to obey



By Richard Bradley
Deuteronomy 28

The key verse in Deuteronomy 28 is surely verse 1: "If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth" (NIV). The big "IF!" The clear teaching of this chapter is that obedience to God results in his blessings; disobedience results in broken fellowship with him and perhaps alienation. We must choose to be what God wants us to be in this world or to follow our own course. The path of obedience leads to God and results in his blessings, the other path leads away from God and is dangerous indeed.

God's promised blessings for obedience (vv. 1-6). God promised that he would bless the Hebrews for their obedience to his commands. God's promised blessings included safety wherever the Israelites went, fruitfulness of body and ground, and abundance of cattle and food (vv. 3-6). God wanted his people to know that under his watchful eye they would be provided with everything necessary to sustain life and for them to prosper.

The fulfillment of God's promises are always based on two things. First, God's covenant relationship with his people always demands their faithfulness. God's people cannot legitimately demand the fulfillment of God's promises if they are not willing to make good on their commitment to be faithful to him.

The second requirement for the fulfillment of God's promises is that he maintain his integrity. While we do not make demands upon God, he makes demands upon himself. The Lord has bound himself to doing what he has promised to do. To do less than this would be for God to deny who he is or to become less than what he is. God never changes. His essential nature demands that he ever remain the same. What he has promised he will do!

God's promised punishment for disobedience (vv. 15-19). God warned the Israelites that just as surely as they would be blessed for their obedience to him, they would be severely punished for their disobedience. God's punishment for the disobedience of his people would result in their lack of security, lack of fruitfulness of body and ground, and lack of abundance of cattle and food.

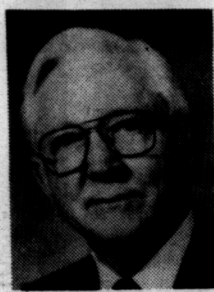
All through those years of wilderness wanderings there was never any doubt who was sustaining the Hebrews. When the people gathered the manna and prepared the meat sent by God, they knew that it was the Lord who had fed them. This fact would not be quite so obvious in their new land, this land of abundance. To turn against the Lord through their acts of disobedience would be to deny his lordship over them. Having broken the terms of their covenant relationship with God, the Lord would again demonstrate that he had never ceased in being Israel's true provider. All of their blessings and privileges would be taken away, and work as hard as they might, the people would still suffer want. No people can truly consider themselves prosperous or blessed for whom the Lord is not their God!

The final and most dramatic warning against disobedience to God is found in verses 64-66. Because of their acts of disobedience, God promised that the people would be disenfranchised from their land, they would lose all of their privileges and blessings, the very basics necessary for the maintenance of life would be taken away, and their hearts would be filled with constant fear and anguish of soul. Perhaps this last is the worst of all. Verses 15-19 and 64-66 picture a people who have lost the joy of their salvation, who have come to the sad realization that life without God is not worth living. Their help, wealth, protection, health, and their hope are all gone. A sad ending for a once great people.

It is wonderful to note, however, that with God there is always a way back. For David it was the restoration of his salvation, for the Jews it would be a sojourn, a pilgrimage back to their land of promise. Through repentance and a renewal of our devotion and commitment to God we can come back to that place we once enjoyed in the Lord's fellowship. Like the loving father of Jesus' parable, our heavenly Father stands with open arms awaiting the return of his people.

Bradley is pastor of Handsboro Church, Gulfport.

Bible Book The practice of wisdom



By Raymond Kolb
Proverbs 16:1 — 24:34

The background passage for today's lesson covers nine chapters in the book of Proverbs. Please read the entire passage, though our comments will have to be limited to a few short texts. Many subjects are discussed and we cannot touch on all of them.

God's control of life (16:1-3). Man was given a mind with which to think. He is able to plan but is still dependent on God to plan properly and to give proper expression to those plans. His own thoughts may look good to him, but God sees more. He looks at the motive in one's heart before he approves them. Only if one's motives are right and God's will is sincerely sought will God assume responsibility for those plans and for the expression of them in such a way that they can be carried out successfully.

Proverbs on various subjects. "He who mocks the poor shows contempt for their Maker; whoever gloats over disaster will not go unpunished" (17:5). Our treatment of the poor, the needy, or those in trouble may be considered our treatment of their Maker and Savior. (Cf. Matt. 25:31-46.)

Bribery and other forms of dishonesty are repeatedly condemned throughout this book. Proverbs 17:23 is one clear example of this.

"When one who has nothing to say talks continually, he gains a bad reputation for himself" (17:28). Silence may be golden. The same idea is carried forward in 18:7-8, and 21. A fool's constant talking can cause trouble. It can cause others to become angry and to even retaliate. His own lips may be setting a trap for him (18:7). Verse 8 points out the danger of gossip. Why is it so appealing? Is it a part of our sinful nature to enjoy listening to gossip about others or the problems they may have? Why do we want to pass it on and perhaps cause trouble for them? Some of the consequences may fall back on us (18:21).

The poor, the wise, and other matters. "He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done" (19:17). God's love and care for the poor are often emphasized in the Bible. Poverty is not always a result of laziness. On the other hand, there are those who suffer need and even go hungry just because they are lazy and are unwilling to work. This, too, is condemned (20:4, 13).

Justice and sayings of the wise. "To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice" (21:3). God wants us. No amount of sacrifices and offerings can please him if the heart of the giver is not right with him.

Various passages, such as 20:1; 23:20-21, 30-35 present strong warnings about the dangers of alcohol and gluttony.

A Christian friend who is a physician tells of two patients he had at the same time. Let's call them Mr. A and Mr. B. One day Mr. A went to the doctor's office, complaining of getting worse. "Doctor," he said, "you see that I can't raise my hand any higher than my shoulder. And I can't walk more than a mile now." Soon Mr. B visited the doctor's office. With a smile on his face and raising his arm, he said, "Look, Doctor, I can raise my arm as high as my shoulder now and I can walk a whole mile. I think I am getting better." After they left, the doctor said to himself, "They are about the same age. They have the same problem. I am giving them the same treatment. But, what a difference! What is the difference?" Then he looked at a calendar in his office and read, "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones" (Prov. 17:22). Then the doctor said, "Mr. B seems to have one prescription that Mr. A does not have." You may need to see your doctor occasionally and to follow his instructions very carefully, but don't forget to keep that extra prescription which Dr. Solomon gave in Proverbs 17:22 with you, also. Let them work together.

My wife and I have recently celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary, along with all of our children and their families. With so much to be grateful for, my thoughts turn to another verse in this section of Proverbs: "He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord" (18:22). Amen! Thank you, Lord!

Kolb is a retired missionary living in Clinton.

Life and Work Alcohol and drugs



By Ruth Allen
Romans 13:12-14, 14:13-23

The following newspaper article was recently released: "A tiger, angered by a tipsy zoo visitor, bit off the man's arm and then kept the wardens from retrieving the severed limb. The 41-year-old man, strolling in the zoo of Russia's Baltic city of Kaliningrad Monday night, wanted to impress his female companion by putting his arm inside the cage. In an instant the tiger, infuriated by the man's teasing, shut his jaws, cutting the hapless hero's arm to the elbow. The tiger kept the wardens from retrieving it, preventing reattachment. The man was taken to a local hospital, where a spokeswoman said the man's life was not in danger."

The man could have avoided this tragic incident if he had learned Proverbs 23:31-32, which reads, "Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup.... At the last it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder." In the above instance, it literally bit like a tiger! The use of alcohol exacts a high price, which is always collected in the end. The wise person chooses the course of abstinence. There is a two-fold reason for total abstinence: to preserve the well-being of the individual and to effectively serve as an example to others. Paul urges all Christians to "conduct themselves in a manner becoming to God's children, not in reveling and drunkenness."

Paul also adds, "Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding." He admonishes never to cause others to stumble; to accomplish these words, one must refrain from the use of beverage alcohol. The message of the secular world of advertising uses counter measures to promote the use of alcohol. In the ludicrous slogan of Anheuser-Busch, "Let's stop underage drinking before it starts," what is the underlying motive of the ad? Is it not at some point that it is right and proper to consume alcohol; but one should be sure to start at the proper time. There is no proper time!

There is no specific biblical chapter or verse for abstaining from illegal drug use. Common sense is the best reason, because serious problems are the end result of drug use. Satan uses illegal drugs to cheat people out of many good things in life; some of these are a happy conscience, self-esteem, good health, spiritual, moral, and physical productivity, and a meaningful and happy family life. Illegal drugs destroy all wonderful aspects of life.

In the 1930s a man invited a well-known doctor into his home for consultation. This man had been bothered with intestinal problems off and on for several months and wanted relief. The doctor nodded pensively and prescribed some medication. Much to the patient's relief, the medication worked and the patient vowed to follow the doctor's every suggestion to the letter, even though the doctor started prescribing strychnine and hormones and bella donna and, eventually, what is known today as "speed" — 28 different drugs in all.

In time, the patient was totally dependent upon the doctor and his drugs. The doctor would later say that his patient was never really sick until he started taking the medications. The name of the doctor has dropped into obscurity. He obviously was not a doctor, but a sinister drug pusher. History will never forget the name of the patient — Adolph Hitler!

People are still hurting and dying because of illegal drugs and alcohol; man is much too special to allow these chemicals to push him around. Then, too, Christians are getting ready for heaven. In that perfect place called heaven there will be no need for drugs or alcohol because Jesus will provide all the exhilaration one could ever experience. By abstaining from alcohol and illegal drugs, the exhilarating effects of a clean and wholesome life can be enjoyed here on earth.

The latest Gallup poll indicates alcohol consumption is on the rise. The poll states that "stress from living in the '90s" is the reason given for the increase. If ever the world needed the power of Christian influence, it is today! What one person does can make a difference for good or bad! Resolve to keep yourself clean and pure and never to cause anyone to stumble!

Allen lives in Jackson.

Volunteer team gives 7,000 Bibles to Moroccans in Algeciras, Spain

By Anne W. McWilliams

A team of 10 from the U.S., Mexico, and Lebanon distributed 7,000 Bibles July 14-25 to Moroccans waiting to board ferries in the port of Algeciras, Spain.

Involved in the mission project were Millie Roberts, Arlington, Texas, team coordinator; Dennis Wiles, pastor, Calvary Church, Garland, Texas; Dawn Isler, Arlington, Texas; Janelle Jeter, Bryan, Texas; Mychaelle Monarch, San Diego, Calif.; Anne McWilliams, Clinton; Maricela Barranco Montiel, Pueblo, Mexico; Alejandro Peregrina Albores, Pueblo, Mexico; Fernando Moreno Ponce, Chihuahua, Mexico; and Gabi Kadrossi of Lebanon, whose present address is Cyprus. These volunteers were recruited through the Foreign Mission Board, SBC.

At least 600,000 North African Berbers work in southern Europe. Their employers, particularly in France, set annual vacation time for the last two weeks of July and the first two weeks of August. As a result, the midsummer migration of Moroccans through Spain has become the largest annual migration of people in the world.

Over a million — workers and their families — were expected to pass through Spain in this four-week period.

Of Morocco's 25,000,000 people, 99.5% are Muslims. To reach out to these and other North Africans, over 40 evangelical Christian groups, including Southern Baptists, made a decision to target three of Spain's port cities this summer — Algeciras, Malaga, and Almeria.

"We plan to distribute over 100,000 New Testaments," said a representative of the evangelicals, "plus gospel portions, tracts, audio cassettes of the Jesus Film in Arabic and in Riffi Berber languages, and folders advertising Christian radio broadcasts beamed from Europe into Africa."

Team members expressed surprise at the openness of the Moroccans and their evident gratitude when many said, "This is the first Bible I ever saw."

"The people seemed distant at first," said Roberts. "But when you talk with them and get to know them a bit, they are warm and open."

McWilliams pointed out that this openness was surprising in

view of the fact that a Moroccan Muslim is forbidden ever to change his or her religion, and does so at risk of persecution, exile from home and family, imprisonment, or death.

"The multitudes of people who are lost —" said Roberts, "This impressed me — and the power of the Word of God to reach them. We were not just giving out a book."

Teams from France, representing Operation Mobilization World, Campus Crusade, and others, participated in the reach-out activities. They continued distribution of Bibles through mid-August in the ports. The Arabic Bibles being given were printed by the Lebanese branch of the United Bible Society.

Team member Wiles, referred to John 17 and Jesus' prayer for unity among believers. Wiles mentioned the varied languages of the volunteers — French, Arabic, Spanish, English — and said, "This week I have seen such unity."

McWilliams is a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, and former BAPTIST RECORD associate editor.



Volunteers from California, Texas, and Mexico lined up inside the entrance to the used furniture store where Bibles are stored for distribution. Team coordinator was Millie Roberts of Texas (center, wearing sunglasses). The furniture store was also the site of the team's worship services while in Spain. (Photo by Anne McWilliams)



Bibles from Americans warmly received, appreciated

By Anne W. McWilliams

"There's nothing like this in Fez!" The young man accepted the Arabic New Testament with much show of gratitude.

The night train from Tangier to Fez was so crowded that after the change in Sidi Sliman we had to stand in the corridor. I sat on my up-ended suitcase until a Moroccan gentleman offered me his seat in a compartment.

Meanwhile, my fellow volunteers, Millie and Dennis, had opened a friendly conversation with two other Moroccan men standing near them. One took the Bible they offered, and then returned it. The other accepted a Bible and, as soon as the four of them had found seats together, began reading it. Then the first man asked for his copy back.

We had begun the week's mission endeavor in Algeciras, Spain, giving Bibles to Berber families waiting in line to board ferries to Morocco (see story on this page).

When ferry lines thinned, six of us had left for Fez, hoping to (discreetly) give away some Bibles inside Morocco, which is considered "the most anti-Christian nation in the world."

Though Bibles are not illegal there, Islam is the state religion, and the government seeks diligently to preserve it.

I'd heard that a few copies of the Bible in a suitcase would be okay, but that authorities would not knowingly permit large cartons of them to enter, or permit book stores to sell them.

On the train, Millie, wanting a visual record of that Muslim read-

ing the New Testament, asked, "May I take your picture?"

"No," he answered. "I'd rather not. I work for the government."

For the government? What would he do? What would he say?

He expressed joy and excitement at being able to hold a Bible in his hand. "You can't get these in Fez!" he repeated.

Later, after they had said goodbye, he returned to thank Millie yet again.

Because they live in a sort of "crossroads of the world," Moroccans are gifted linguists. Many speak both Arabic and French, and some add to that a Berber dialect, English, and Spanish.

These people we were meeting on the first class section of the train apparently were well-to-do and could read.

Across the country, outside the train, lived millions, more women than men, who'd had little chance for schooling and could not read.

Two days later, as we returned on the train to Tangier, a vivacious dark-haired girl, Melika*, in Western-style black and white striped dress, asked Will*, one of our group, "How do you have a personal relationship with Jesus?"

He referred her to Millie, who sought to answer her question and then showed her a tract explaining the way to abundant life. "That's me," Melika said.

In another of the train's compartments, I sat writing in my notebook, trying to recapture Fez on paper — the veiled women, the mosques, the donkeys, the labyrinth of winding streets, the

shops filled with brass and leather....

Across from me sat a slender man in a lavender shirt and sharply pressed black pants — his dark hair and mustache neatly trimmed.

Every time I looked up, I met those hazel eyes staring at me. His curiosity centered on my notebook, I learned, because Ali* was a journalist, a writer for newspapers, from another country in North Africa, as well as an author of two books on Islamic thought.

"I have written two biographies," I told him. After he had given me his address and picture, we promised to exchange books.

Will, who by then had come to sit by me, initiated a conversation

with Ali, in French. Melika had followed Will to our car, evidently wanting to hear more about Jesus and the abundant life. Talk flowed around me in several languages.

"What is a biography?" asked the girl in the corner seat — a student at the University of Ali.

"This is a biography of Jesus," said Will, as he presented a New Testament to Ali.

"If America is a Christian nation, why do we hear of so much sin there?" the journalist asked.

He mentioned homosexuality and abortion.

"We all sin," said Will. "Jesus can be our redeemer."

Quickly Melika began to

repeat and further explain Will's words as he witnessed to Ali.

This sophisticated man leaned forward, his eyes a mirror of his eagerness, his need to hear more.

When the train stopped at a station on the outskirts of Tangier, he carefully slid the Bible into his leather briefcase.

He shook hands with me; then the compartment door slid shut behind him — like the closed door that holds so many Muslims prisoner within the traditions of their faith.

(* Fictional names)

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Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Proverbs Fourteen: One.

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